



FOLLOW THE GOLDEN BRICK ROAD
TO
NU ALPHA GAMMA'S BEGINNINGS

Sharon: Welcome—Kristen, Liz

Sue:

- Introduction of some of our "founders":
Hazel Moody—Sharon Ulrich
Louise Jones—Deb Irving
Virginia Cunningham—Marilyn Bode
Verna Carstens—Roxy Schwartz
Josephine Fagen—Cathy Clark
Blanche Dickerson—Marlene Johnson
Lillian Sterrett—Darlene Pitsenbarger
Cornelia Bulkley—Carol Hill
When we get to the hotel you'll find a booklet that tells you more about their lives.

- And now, please sit back and enjoy a tradition of country schools everywhere, a play titled "The Golden Brick Road to Nu Alpha Gamma's Beginnings"

The Golden Brick Road
To
Nu Alpha Gamma's Beginnings

Speaking Parts:

Narrator—Sue
Hazel Moody—Sharon
Mable McKee—Kristen
Louise Jones—Deb
Fate—JoAnn
Virginia Cunningham—Marilyn B.
Maureen--Herself
Chorus Leader—Marilyn B.

Non-speaking Parts:

Verna Karstens—Roxy
Josephine—Cathy
Blanche—Marlene
Lillian—Darlene
Cornelia—Barb B.

Props: 2 telephones, table (or desk) with tablecloth for meetings, 7 chairs,
7 coffee cups

Narrator: In 1954 President Dwight Eisenhower put forth a plan for an interstate system and pledged support to South Viet Nam, Elvis Presley recorded his debut single, "That's All Right, Mama", "under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance, and the first mass inoculation against polio with the Jonas Salk vaccine occurred. RCA manufactured the first color TV set (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " screen for \$1,000) and everyone was eagerly anticipating the TV broadcast of "The Wizard of Oz". In Des Moines WHO TV channel 13 began broadcasting, Upsilon State was 20 years old, Delta Kappa Gamma was only 27 years old, and in Perry, Iowa, Hazel Moody has returned from Mason City to her home town to teach sixth grade.

(The door opens and Hazel enters, hair askew, arms full of papers, pencil in her hair, handbag dangling from her arm. Table to set her things on.)

Hazel: Phew! What a whirlwind of a day! Those sixth grade students are quite a handful! They know I demand excellence in my classes, but they still try my patience. I'm glad it's Friday. *(Quietly puts her things down and straightens her hair.)* I'm glad to be back in Perry. There's no place like home, but I surely do miss my fellow Delta Kappa Gamma members. Tomorrow would be our regular meeting, and I miss the programs that we had. Most of all, I miss the fellowship I had in the two years I was a member. I can tell I'm not in Mason City anymore.

(Suddenly the *phone* rings. On the other end we see the Good Witch, Mable McKee, State President.)

Hazel: Why, Mable, I was just thinking about Delta Kappa Gamma. What can I do for you?

Mable: Hazel, we need you to follow the golden brick road and initiate a Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter in Dallas County. There are many women educators there that would make excellent members. Also, there is a need for the activism that a DKG Chapter would provide.

Chorus: Follow the golden brick road. Follow the golden brick road. Follow, follow, follow, follow, follow the golden brick road.

Hazel: (*Looking a little overwhelmed*) Me? What do I do first? Which way do I go? I know I need to get a nucleus of members, but where do I look? How? (*Sits thinking for awhile*) I know! I met Verna Karstens and Louise Jones in Cedar Rapids when they were initiated as state members last summer. Maybe they would help. I'll call and see if they could come over for coffee and we could discuss this.

Narrator: That weekend she meets with Verna and Louise.
(*Table, 3 chairs, coffee cups*)

Louise: I apologize for the way I look. I have been working in my garden, and I must look like a scarecrow. I like your idea. Hazel, we need a brain like yours to get this organized. You know we will help anyway we can. In November there are supposed to be some more members initiated in Des Moines. That will give us more hands.

Hazel: I surely hope so. I'm not a wizard when it comes to these things.

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Narrator: At the November, 1954, meeting in Des Moines, Blanche Dickerson, Virginia Cunningham, Josephine Fagen, and two other women educators were initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma. That made a small, but cozy group of eight—enough to start a chapter.

Hazel: *(Talking with Louise, Blanche, Virginia, and Josephine around **the table**)*
I'm so excited! It looks like we're going to be able to organize a group from Dallas County.

*(The **phone** rings again. On the other end is the wicked witch, Fate)*

Fate: Ha, ha, ha! You didn't think it would be that easy, did you? Two of your prospective members just accepted other positions and are moving! Better luck next time.

Hazel: *(Dejectedly)* This isn't going to be as easy as we thought ladies. I'm glad I have you with me on this journey. I'm not sure I have the heart to care anymore.

Chorus: Follow the golden brick road. Follow the golden brick road. Follow, follow, follow, follow, follow the golden brick road.

Louise: Well, I have enough heart to share. You have talked so glowingly of the good times you had in Mason City that I want to experience them for myself and the others agree. Right, ladies?

Virginia: Come on, Hazel. You've given me the courage to get this far in Delta Kappa Gamma. I KNOW we can do this.

Chorus: Follow the golden brick road. Follow the golden brick road. Follow, follow, follow, follow, follow the golden brick road.

Narrator: The following year, Cornelia Bulkley became a state member and Lillian Sterrett, already a state member, began teaching in Dallas Center.

Hazel: *(Talking with the group **around the table with 7 chairs**)* I'm getting excited! We have seven members—one for each office. We can definitely start making plans! *(Fate starts to slink back in)* However, *(she looks sternly at them all)* NO ONE CAN MOVE! *(Fate leaves)*

Louise: (*Laughing*) Don't worry! I've contacted the wizards in Des Moines, and they say they have the names of eight more initiates: Ruth Brady, Irene Hartman, Marian Krohnke, Wilma McManus, Greta Sayles, Beulah Shepard, Melva Shiery, and Margaret Webster. The Wizards of Upsilon State have set November 4, 1956, as the date we will officially become a chapter. They've even decided on our chapter's name. We will be Alpha Gamma Chapter.

Hazel: Fantastic! Let's see, there are seven of us and seven offices. Who will take what?

Virginia: Hazel, you have been our leader throughout this journey. It is only right that you be the President.

Hazel: It was your courage that got us organized. Would you be recording secretary and keep us organized? And Louise, your heart kept us going; would you be First Vice President? Blanche can be Second Vice President, Cornelia will be Corresponding Secretary, and Josephine, with her head for numbers, should be treasurer. Lillian, since you have been a state member for awhile, would you be our Parliamentarian?

Chorus: Follow the golden brick road. Follow the golden brick road. Follow, follow, follow, follow, follow the golden brick road.

Narrator: Alpha Gamma Chapter was 100% in attendance that day. We were the first chapter to have that honor at Upsilon State, and we had that honor twice afterwards.

Narrator: The chapter continued to grow and by 1976, when the 20th anniversary party was held at the Rib Restaurant near Perry, the original 15 members had increased to double that membership despite deaths and transfers.

Chorus: Follow the golden brick road. Follow the golden brick road. Follow, follow, follow, follow, follow the golden brick road

Fate: (*Interrupting the chorus*) Wait a minute! You don't think it was rainbows and happily ever after from then on, do you? You've been talking about Alpha Gamma Chapter. Isn't the name of YOUR group, Nu Alpha Gamma?

Narrator: True. In 2013, the munchkins from the IRS threw a monkey wrench into our happiness. Our chapter's tax exempt status was revoked. We didn't exist! Federal guidelines were being strictly enforced. The membership was faced with a huge decision. Should we just dissolve, or should we fight? Just walking away did not seem right so the members voted to not go away and reinstatement was underway. We had no limitations, just determination.

Maureen: We couldn't just click our heels and make everything better. Our mission of using our resources to benefit others was strong and should continue in Dallas County. The society in our heart was clever, brave, and caring. It took many calls and some sleepless nights, but finally with Maureen's help, everything got set right. So we were reinstated, but with a new name: Nu Alpha Gamma. Our tenacity led one member to remark, "Our initials are NAG!" We tapped our heels together three times and said, "There's no place like Nu Alpha Gamma."

Narrator: Now we are at a bridge on the golden brick road between the past and the future. Few of us remember the charter members of 65 years ago, except by their names and deeds. But their vision, courage and heart lives on in each of our members keeping us inspired and striving ever forward as we continue to...

Chorus: Follow the golden brick road. Follow the golden brick road. Follow, follow, follow, follow, follow the golden brick road.

The activism that state president, Mable McKee, encouraged back in the 1950's, is still evident today in Nu Alpha Gamma.

- Money left by Hazel Moody is used to ensure that we can award at least one scholarship to a college junior or senior majoring in education,
- This year we are again able to award at least two literacy grants to educators throughout Dallas County making it the 11th year we have done it.
- During last year, we sent encouraging messages to all teachers in Dallas County.
- Monthly we encourage donations to the Women's Crisis Center
- We keep abreast of legislation that will affect both current and retired teachers.
- At the DKG fall Executive Board meeting held Saturday, September 25th, Nu Alpha Gamma was recognized as GOLD for Chapter Excellence, and we came in 4th for World Fellowship. We gave \$12.57 per member.
- Our signature project is here in the schoolhouse, an audio interactive that helps preserve the history of the one room schoolhouse.
 - Me-volunteer
 - Dubuque River Museum
 - Funding was an issue—see plaque
 - Former attendees focus group
 - Local help: Pegasus, Raccoon River Radio, Graphics 2U, Carnegie Library
 - Applied Art and Technology made the case and installed the audio
- Map gift from Hazel Whitney, former member