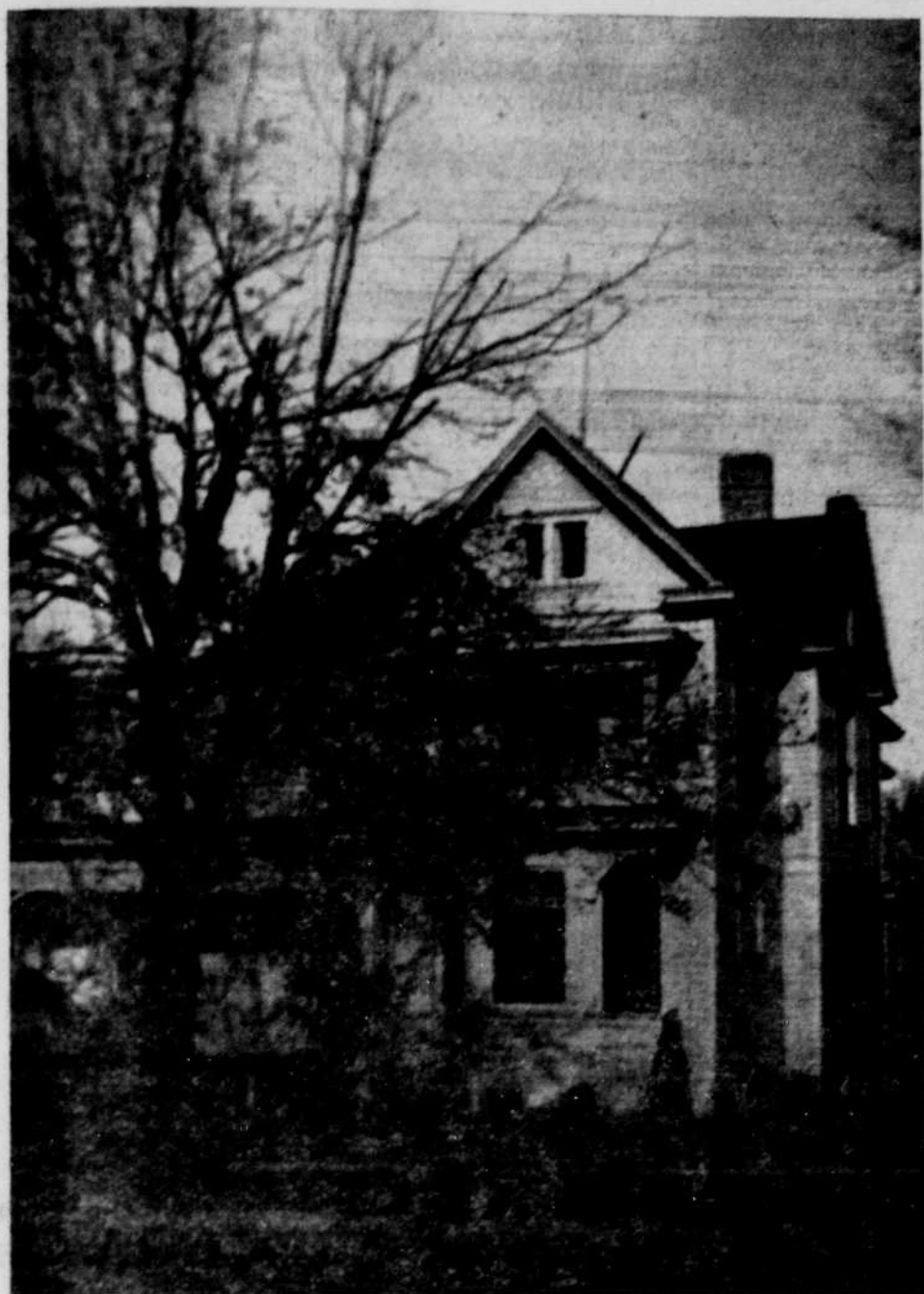




From this in 1936 . . .



UNIVERSITY HOUSE GIRLS use their informal lounge for many activities. Here, five girls gather for a spur-of-the-moment hootenanny.

University House

30 Years of Progress

By MAXINE ELLIOTT
News Editor

Thirty years ago a determined University placement secretary and a small group of University women students embarked upon an experiment. The placement secretary was Janet Smith, and that experiment was University House, the oldest women's co-operative living unit on campus.

Two years earlier, the men's co-op program had been started at the University. Miss Smith contended that what would work for men would work for women, too, and during winter term, 1936, Miss Smith and her girls rented a rambling old house at 14th and University Street. Despite heavy opposition, Miss Smith and the girls moved in the following term.

A lack of shower facilities forced the girls to bathe at Gerlinger Hall that first year. Despite this inconvenience, however, 'Uni' House won the Burt Brown Barker scholarship cup for the highest grades on campus. They've since retired two such cups—several times the house GPA has topped 3.00—and the house still ranks high scholastically.

Activities were an important part of University House during those formative years. This tradition has remained, and in 1965, the house won first place in the All-Campus Sing and their Canoe Fete float won third place. The WRA participation cup has been in the house's possession for the past five years.

It was just as well the SU was built in 1950, necessitating the removal of the original building. The sagging back had been held up by jacks for some time, and there were still periodic jaunts to Gerlinger Hall when the shower facilities weren't working. Members reported at the time "it was just like heaven" to move to the new house at 1675 Agate.

The Agate Street house was actually three houses connected by enclosed breezeways. Since 1963, when 'Uni' House moved into Hendricks Hall with several other co-ops (Miss Smith's experiment, like Topsy, "just grew"), the psychology lab has been housed in the building.

University House was instrumental in incorporating all the women's co-ops into Co-Ed Housing, Inc. after World War II. Last spring, Co-Ed Housing authorized the purchase of the house formerly occupied by Kappa Alpha Theta at 791 E. 15th. University House moved in this fall.

Karen Winn, senior from Weston, remembers arriving early at 'Uni' House in 1962 and finding several girls busily painting. When she asked where she was to go, she was told "that's a good question—we've only been here half an hour ourselves." It was the same story this fall when the most-asked question was, "where's the best place to buy paint?"

University House's 30th anniversary is being celebrated Sunday with an open house and reception from 3-5 p.m. All members of the University community, past and present, are invited to attend.



. . . To this in 1966

Photos by
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