

I've heard Kappas used to travel by train to Convention; is this true? For many Conventions held during the Fraternity's first 100 years, special trains brought Kappas from all directions to the site. In 1940, for example, when Convention was in Sun Valley, Idaho, East Coast Kappas traveled to New York City where they spent the night at the 28-story Panhellenic House overlooking the East River. From there, they took a special train to Chicago together. Kappas from the South and Southwest joined the special train at Omaha and Cheyenne. In Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, special Pullman cars were reserved so Kappas from the West could travel to Sun Valley together.

The Fraternity held its General Convention in Sun Valley for the second time in 1964. Frances Crain Cook, *Texas*, was the delegate from the Westchester County Alumnae Association in New York. She rode on a special Pullman railroad car with other Kappa sisters to attend the Convention in Sun Valley. When she was returning from the Convention and having breakfast, the dining car steward came to the table and said that one of the train's next stops would be in North Platte, Nebraska.

Frances said, "I have a good friend in North Platte!" She was talking about Frances Neville Newberry, *Texas*, who had pledged Kappa with her in 1932. Frances' father had been the governor of Nebraska. Her two sisters, Virginia Neville Robertson and Irene Neville Bystrom, pledged Kappa at the University of Nebraska.

"Maybe you could get off and see her," the steward suggested. "Just call her from the next stop and see if she can come to the station."

"When the train stopped at the first station, I tried to call her, but there was no answer," Frances recalls. "The Western Union woman then suggested I send a telegram, which I did. I boarded the train again not knowing whether my friend Frances got my telegram.

"As the train came closer to North Platte, all the Kappas were peering out the windows to see if Frances was going to be at the station. Sure enough, there she was with her husband, Willard 'Twist' Newberry, whom she had met at the University of Texas. I hurriedly got off and gave them a big Texas hug."

Frances said the Western Union telegraph agent knew her friend's family well and was aware that she was next door visiting. Because the agent was able to deliver Frances' message, she and her pledge sister were able to have that Kappa reunion 45 years ago.

"Both Frances Newberry and I are proud recipients of our 75-year pins and have enjoyed a rich friendship to this day."

Obviously, memories of attending a Kappa Convention last forever. Frances Cook, now 96 years old and living in Austin, has enjoyed a lifetime of Kappa memories.

Plan to attend the 68th Biennial Convention at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix, June 23 – 27, 2010. Create your own special memories.