

Welcome to The Axe & Palm

THE OLD UNION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

THE HISTORY OF THE AXE & PALM

The Axe & Palm was developed by a group of 15 Stanford students (Old Union Dining Advisory Group) who were inspired by one of the great legends of the university as well as the natural beauty of the campus grounds. These students worked together to develop the concept, name and late-night hours.



The Stanford Daily, Friday April 4, 1930

THE STORY OF THE AXE

It all started over a century ago on April 13, 1899 when an unsuspecting straw man wearing Cal colors at a Cal-Stanford baseball game was ruthlessly decapitated by a lumberman's axe with a 15-inch blade.

It didn't stop there. Angry Cal students seized the Axe at the next game and the chase was on. Through the streets of San Francisco, Stanford students, local police, and various other angry and confused citizens were in hot pursuit, but to no avail.

The Axe was fiercely protected, kept in a bank vault and brought out in an armored vehicle only for Cal-Berkeley sports events. It was not until 31 years later that 21 intrepid Stanford students, now known in Stanford lore as the *Immortal 21*, hit upon the perfect plan to get the Axe back.

At the Cal annual axe rally in 1930, four of the 21 Stanford students posing as photographers temporarily blinded the Grand Custodian of the Axe with flash bulbs. In the scuffle that ensued, the remaining mob of Stanford students grabbed the Axe while several others, disguised as Cal Students, tossed a smoke bomb (or tear gas, depending on who you ask) into the crowd. Legit Cal students were further thrown off when the faux Cal students organized a vigilante mob and led them all in the wrong direction. The mission was a success.



The Immortal 21

In 1933, after much legal wrangling and heated debate, both sides agreed to designate the Axe as the annual trophy to be awarded to the Big Game's winner; in the event of a tie, it would be kept by the side already possessing the Axe.



Palm Drive circa 1930

WHY PALM?

One has only to look at the beautiful royal palm trees within the Old Union courtyard to see the inspiration. Stanford's campus is brimming with these beautiful trees nearly everywhere you look. They are so ubiquitous they have become an unofficial Stanford icon.

THE AXE & PALM TODAY

The anticipation and excitement of the Big Game, as well as the tradition of friendly rivalry and revelry, live on at The Axe & Palm! Enjoy our signature burgers and tasty comfort food and be part of the new generation of Stanford students that continue to make history.

