

# EMERALD

of Sigma Pi Fraternity, International

Centennial Celebration



SIGMA PI  
1897-1997

# Visitors to Shadowwood

|         |                       |                              |          |                    |                            |          |                   |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 5/31/96 | Ginger Osborne        | Robinson, IL                 | 9/27/96  | Randall Neal       | Vincennes, IN              | 11/7/96  | Zachary Taylor    | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 5/31/96 | Jan Waggoner          | Evansville, IN               | 10/2/96  | Lee M. Hauser      | Alpha, Vincennes           | 11/13/96 | Jeff Hunt         | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 6/2/96  | Don Cox               | Kappa, Temple                | 10/3/96  | Franklin Woodbury  | Alpha-Iota, Missouri-Rolla | 11/13/96 | Robby Bickle      | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/7/96  | Jason Phelps          | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/9/96  | Ost                | Alpha-Rho, SW Missouri     | 11/13/96 | Ryan Warnick      | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/7/96  | Chrysty Blaugher      | Vincennes, IN                | 10/11/96 | Tim Cappelen       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Sam Hale          | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/9/96  | Ben Himsel            | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/11/96 | David Hermann      | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Scott Bosworth    | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/13/96 | Dave Foley            | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/11/96 | Kevin Cresham      | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Chris Taylor      | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/17/96 | Ty Collett            | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/11/96 | Scott Nebel        | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Zac Taylor        | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/17/96 | Patrice Kopelman      | Lakewood, CO                 | 10/11/96 | Greg Wilkerson     | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Anhtony Southwood | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/20/96 | Bill Lane             | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/11/96 | Neil Eubanks       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Martin Donnely    | Vincennes, IN         |
| 6/21/96 | Dan Davis             | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/11/96 | Chad Gavras        | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Chris Swisher     | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 6/21/96 | John Stout            | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/11/96 | George Nosal       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Josh Patterson    | Vincennes, IN         |
| 7/4/96  | Brian Tuggle          | Epsilon-Epsilon, Emporia St. | 10/11/96 | Joseph Leto        | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Andrew Pitcher    | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 7/4/96  | Tracy Peck            | Epsilon-Epsilon, Emporia St. | 10/11/96 | Gilen Meadows      | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Randy Collins     | Vincennes, IN         |
| 7/6/96  | Walter Kiefer         | Chelmsford, MA               | 10/11/96 | Glen Hopkins       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Ryan Hoehn        | Vincennes, IN         |
| 7/6/96  | Mary Kay Kiefer       | Indianapolis, IN             | 10/12/96 | Dominic Garritano  | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Matt Frazier      | Vincennes, IN         |
| 7/8/96  | Mark McCauliffe       | Epsilon-Mu, James Madison    | 10/12/96 | J.B. Lorenty       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Joshua Goode      | Vincennes, IN         |
| 7/10/96 | Dan Kinman            | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky   | 10/12/96 | Jason Harhen       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Jeff Flory        | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 7/11/96 | Ben Himsel            | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Bret Shorb         | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Ken Klamm         | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 7/11/96 | Jennifer Bentley      | Vincennes, IN                | 10/12/96 | Ryan Natty         | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Jason Miller      | Vincennes, IN         |
| 7/13/96 | Ed McClane            | Beta-Gamma, E Illinois       | 10/12/96 | Thomas Staatz      | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Josh Wininger     | Vincennes, IN         |
| 7/16/96 | Taylor Cline          | Gamma-Upsilon, Murray St.    | 10/12/96 | Brandon Rybanski   | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Brent Barry       | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 7/16/96 | Michael Burton        | Gamma-Upsilon, Murray St.    | 10/12/96 | Josh Soeder        | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/13/96 | Bozak Berry       | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 7/16/96 | Lee Blair             | Gamma-Upsilon, Murray St.    | 10/12/96 | Robert Pasinski    | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Chris Wilcher     | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 7/23/96 | Brian Kochman         | Zeta-Chi, Rowan              | 10/12/96 | Brad Roegner       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Digger Hardeback  | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 7/25/96 | Michael Pink          | Austin, Texas                | 10/12/96 | Barny Pierce       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Mark Adams        | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 7/29/96 | Michael Burbach       | Epsilon-Epsilon, Emporia St. | 10/12/96 | Rob Scheve         | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Joe Moore         | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 7/29/96 | Brad Holscher         | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Forie Anders       | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Adam Gilman       | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/16/96 | David Winters         | Beta-Gamma, E Illinois       | 10/12/96 | Daniel Almondour   | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Markus Winnecke   | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/16/96 | Joe Nemith            | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Joe Rice           | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Seth Krooswyk     | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/16/96 | Brent Barry           | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Brian Schneider    | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Geoff Endersey    | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/16/96 | Bradley Perry         | Zeta-Pi, Oakland             | 10/12/96 | Denis Staic        | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Cory Wright       | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/16/96 | Chris Swisher         | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | David Schutter     | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | David Warble      | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/29/96 | Heath Wright          | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Eddie Barranco     | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Eric Vitale       | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/29/96 | Andrew Pitcher        | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Mark Del Bocco     | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Jerry Couch       | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/29/96 | Christian Rumble      | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Kurt Giometti      | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | Troy Dulinsky     | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/30/96 | Maty Rauh             | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/12/96 | Charles Bainbridge | Beta-Sigma, N Illinois     | 11/16/96 | John Pampalone    | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 8/31/96 | David Hills           | Middlebury, VT               | 10/13/96 | Jenni Bruens       | Middlebury, IN             | 11/16/96 | Eric Wistoff      | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/4/96  | Chris Oibryan         | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/19/96 | Earl McCoy         | Alpha, Vincennes           | 11/16/96 | Sasha Hyderkan    | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/4/96  | Jeff Leamon           | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/19/96 | Rob Pipes          | Alpha, Vincennes           | 11/16/96 | Brad Suddarth     | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/4/96  | Michael Gandy         | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/19/96 | Tim Lowe           | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky | 11/16/96 | Chris Shaver      | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/5/96  | Chris Caudell         | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/26/96 | Charles Casey      | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky | 11/16/96 | Billy Beikes      | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/10/96 | Jason Hunt            | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/26/96 | James Webb         | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky | 11/16/96 | Luis Rodriguez    | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/10/96 | Russell Wachtel       | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/26/96 | Jessica Vetter     | Louisville, KY             | 11/16/96 | Jeff Cappa        | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/10/96 | Stephanie Motley      | Vincennes, IN                | 10/26/96 | Brent Jenks        | Epsilon-Lambda E Kentucky  | 11/16/96 | Nathan Smith      | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/10/96 | Adolfo Rodriguez, Jr. | Warsaw, IN                   | 10/26/96 | Douglas Porter     | Epsilon-Lambda E Kentucky  | 11/16/96 | Eric Lobosky      | Gamma-Pi, Indiana St  |
| 9/10/96 | Robby Birkle          | Vincennes, IN                | 10/26/96 | Ray Witt           | Alpha, Vincennes           | 11/19/96 | Tim Farley        | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 9/10/96 | Adam Delp             | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/26/96 | Joey Willoughly    | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky | 11/19/96 | Kim Freshour      | Vincennes, IN         |
| 9/10/96 | Ken Klamm             | Alpha, Vincennes             | 10/26/96 | Stephen Perkins    | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky | 11/20/96 | Joe Nemith        | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 9/10/96 | Randy Neal            | Vincennes, IN                | 10/28/96 | Jason Phelps       | Alpha, Vincennes           | 11/20/96 | Ken Klamm         | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 9/10/96 | David Garza           | Valparaiso, IN               | 10/29/96 | Ben Himsel         | Alpha, Vincennes           | 11/21/96 | Josh Ehmer        | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 9/16/96 | Aneil Batra           | Eta-Phi, Miami               | 11/2/96  | Mike Kissel        | Vincennes, IN              | 11/24/96 | Jeff Hunt         | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 9/16/96 | James Webb            | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky   | 11/2/96  | Clyde Kissel       | Elkhart, IN                | 11/24/96 | Chris Oibryan     | Alpha, Vincennes      |
| 9/16/96 | David Harkleroad      | Epsilon-Lambda, E Kentucky   | 11/2/96  | Deb Kissel         | Elkhart, IN                | 11/24/96 | Stacey Engel      | West Lafayette, IN    |
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| 9/28/96 | Brian Fedje           | Indianapolis, IN             | 11/3/96  | James O'Neal       | Monticello, IN             | 11/30/96 | Gail Briscoe      | Sharpsburg, GA        |
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|         |                       |                              | 11/3/96  | Paul Dudley        | Kappa, Temple              |          |                   |                       |
|         |                       |                              | 11/3/96  | Stacy Waldrop      | Phi, Illinois              |          |                   |                       |
|         |                       |                              | 11/7/96  | Craig Robbins      | Vincennes, IN              |          |                   |                       |



# Sigma Pi CENTENNIAL Celebration

## THE EMERALD

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#### Sigma Pi Founders

Rolin Rosco James  
William Raper Kennedy  
James Thompson Kingsbury  
George Martin Patterson

## SPECIAL SECTIONS

### History of the Fraternity

Running from page 4 through 23, this section includes the general history of the fraternity, an article about Robert Paterson called the "Paterson" episode, and articles on Convocations, Grand Sages and the entire Chapter Roll.

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### Landmarks

Not many fraternities have an actual physical "home" for their headquarters. Sigma Pi can be proud of its beautiful headquarters at Shadowwood in Vincennes, Indiana. The addition of Rose Hill added to the rich, historic heritage.

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### From the Editor

On February 26, 1997, Sigma Pi Fraternity, International will celebrate its 100 birthday. During the past 100 years, Sigma Pi has seen a lot, experienced good times and bad times and been in good health and poor health. Sigma Pi has survived the Great Depression, the World Wars and the campus unrest of the 1960's. In fact, going into World War II, Sigma Pi had 36 chartered chapters, 30 of whom were still active. By the end of the War only 10 of those 30 chapters were still open. Sometimes today's challenges seem relatively insignificant compared to the challenges of surviving a century.

As we celebrate this great birthday and enter our centennial year I would like to encourage you to be an active participant in this event. Contact your chapter or the International Headquarters to find out what events are being planned. The Sigma Pi Educational Foundation will be kicking off a special centennial campaign. Through your generous gifts to this campaign you will be helping to ensure that Sigma Pi continues to assist in the educational pursuits of our brothers.

Well, how does it feel to be 100? Pretty darn good! Especially when you know that the ideals upon which we were founded 100 years ago continue to be the foundation upon which we stand today. When we are founded upon these ideals is it any wonder that we feel so good about being 100 and look forward to being 200?

... a fellowship of kindred minds, united in brotherhood  
to advance truth and justice  
to promote scholarship  
to encourage chivalry  
to diffuse culture  
and to develop character  
in the service of God and man,  
and I will strive to make real  
the Fraternity's ideals in my own daily life.

Happy Birthday Brothers! Come on Century II. I know we can do it because

I Believe in Sigma Pi!

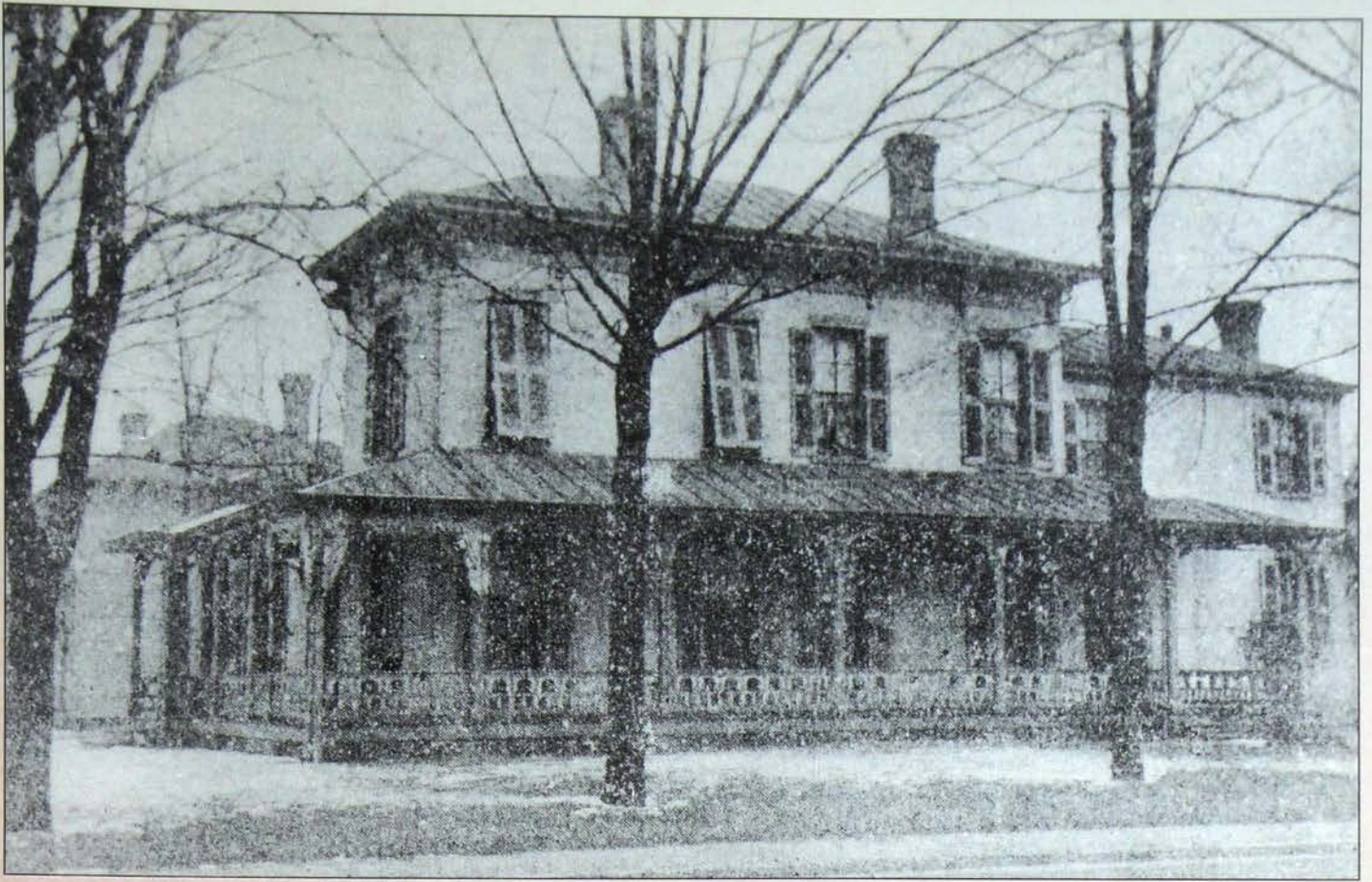
# In the Beginning: the Birth of Sigma Pi

The first National Congress was held by the Fraternity in 1908 in Vincennes. The name of the meeting was changed the next year to the Biennial Convocation and it was held in Columbus. Pictured below are (left to right): Frank Pickel, Harley Presnell, Walter Lone, Max Ellis, Frank Lisman, Howell Ellis, Curtis Shake, Travis Turbett, Shuler McCormick, Jasper McCormick, Carl Catt, Shirley Leveron, Byron Lewis, Aaron Decker, and W.A. Hartman.

Every great organization begins with a vision. Without a vision, one cannot develop an organization because one does not know where to take it. The four young men who walked into the English Room at Vincennes University on February 26, 1897, surely possessed a vision. They had to know what type of organization they wished to create and what that organization would represent. What they probably did not envision, though, was an organization that stretches across North America and binds 70,000 men of all ages together. However,

because of the founders' original vision, members were later able to expand on the vision the four founding fathers had, and create what we all know as Sigma Pi Fraternity, International. Today, we are all part of an organization that continues to produce men of high caliber who make significant contributions to our global community. This story chronicles the beginning of our Fraternity. It is excerpted from the Jacobsen *I Believe* manual and much of it was authored by Judge Curtis G. Shake as well as numerous other men of Sigma Pi.





The Old Bayard Home as pictured in 1871. Early meetings of the Fraternity were held at the Bayard Home and in the Bayard Barn.

The college year 1897-1898 proved that Vincennes University was ready to grow. The attendance was the largest in the history of the institution, the football team had completed a most successful season, a student publication had been successfully launched, and a literary society had been organized. The time and conditions were propitious for the birth of a fraternity at old Vincennes. The circumstances surrounding such a creation are most interesting.

On January 26, 1897, Miss Charlotte N. Malotte, the Professor of Latin and French, spoke to a student group at the chapel hour. She spoke on the subject of "College Fraternities" which sparked the interest of several students. Then, on the afternoon of February 26, four young men convened in the English Room on campus on what is today a historic occasion. When, after a long session, the meeting adjourned, a literary society had been born, though it was yet unnamed.

The founders of the fraternity were William Raper Kennedy, James Thompson Kingsbury, George Martin Patterson, and Rolin Rosco James. The first three were seniors; James was a freshman. Samuel and Maurice Bayard were the first initiates.

They were, in fact, made members of the fraternity before a name was selected or a constitution adopted. Many of the first meetings of the Fraternity were held at the old Bayard home. At the Bayard house, the constitution was written and the first ritual was developed and used in the loft of the family's barn.

According to history, the mother of the first two initiates, Mrs. Bayard, took a deep interest in the organization and used her influence to steer it in the right direction. On one occasion she entered the library of her home to find a meeting of the Fraternity in progress. The business of the hour was the adoption of an appropriate motto. No satisfactory agreement on the subject had been reached. Taking a volume of Browning's Poems from a shelf, she turned to *A DEATH IN THE DESERT*, and read:

*Progress, man's distinctive mark alone,  
Not God's, and not the beasts'; God is,  
they are,  
Man partly is and wholly hopes to be.*

"That," Mrs. Bayard said, "would make an excellent motto for your organization." With this remark she left the room. Her sug-

gestion had accomplished its purpose.

The preamble of the old Constitution also listed the ideals of the fraternity, and it is noted that it has been changed very little over the last 100 years: *To the end that school fellowship may be cultivated, our general knowledge extended, the cause of education advanced, literary culture promoted, and a high degree of school excellence maintained, we, the undersigned students of Vincennes University, do ordain and establish this constitution for the Tau Phi Delta Society.*

Four more members were soon initiated, bringing the total membership to ten by the end of the first year. Little is known about the activities of the organization during the fall and winter term of the year 1898. In the absence of complete records we rely upon the recollections of the members, to the effect that the Society was kept intact and that it exercised great care in the matter of extending invitation for membership. In the spring came a succession of rapidly occurring events which had their effect not only upon the Society, but upon the college as well.

On April 23, 1898, President McKinley called 123,000 volunteers to service in

the Spanish-American War. Immediately the "V.U. Cadets" volunteered as a unit. The offer was promptly accepted by the Governor of Indiana, and the company was directed to remain in readiness to report for duty. On April 27, the mobilization order came, and the cadets entrained on the day following for Camp Mount at Indianapolis as Company L., 159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Among the officers of the company were three members of Tau Phi Delta, namely, First Lieutenant Lee B. Purcell, Quartermaster Sergeant William Raper Kennedy, and Sergeant Maurice F. Bayard.

What students did remain at the college were more concerned about cable dispatches from Manila Bay and Santiago than in the history of the Crusades or in Caesar's campaigns. The college was demoralized by all the losses caused by such a drastic war and took many years to recover. Company L was mustered out of the service on November 23, 1898, but comparatively few of the former V.U. Cadets ever returned to the college. Some entered careers in business, while others went to larger institutions of learning to complete their college training.

It was not until the fall of 1899 that normal conditions were restored at the university. By that time, but one member of Tau Phi Delta, Brother Rolin Rosco James, was in attendance there and to him must be given the sole credit of saving the Fraternity from an early and untimely death. Surrounding himself with four juniors, John K. Chappell, Ray Simpson, William W. Willis, and Herbert P. Holman, and one senior, Frank Hammitt, James kept the society alive.

Some of his associates favored an altogether new society and proposed the name of Theta Gamma Psi, but James encouraged them to retain the old name of Tau Phi Delta. The first meeting of the year, of which mention is made in the records, was held on November 16, 1899. At the meeting following, a new constitution was modeled after the original drafted in 1897; the preamble and motto remained the same.

Among the many loyal friends of Tau Phi Delta during its formative period was Professor Clarence D. Stevens, who



The first chapter house of the Fraternity located at 110 S. Third Street in Vincennes.

deserves special mention. He was an alumnus of Wabash College and a member of Beta Theta Pi. He freely gave his counsel and advice and was of assistance to the young Fraternity. As a token of appreciation he was made an honorary member and years later Professor Stevens paid the following tribute to the founders and their associates:

*"The Society, I believe, was founded to organize the most worthy activities, social, athletic, and scholarly, of the male students, and to set a high standard of manliness and college loyalty. Its membership comprised the picked men of the institution, and initiation into it was considered by all of the students as a mark of distinction."*

It would be appropriate to say that Tau Phi Delta was hardly a fraternity chapter, as that term is now understood. It was rather a combination of the fraternity idea with that of the old style literary society, the like of which flourished in almost every college in the country in the 19th century. For several years the chapter met in a college building and regular meetings were usually held on Friday evenings. On these occasions, literary programs were carried out with the utmost seriousness and decorum. A typical program consisted of a song, a discussion of



current events, a brief debate, and perhaps a reading or a declamation.

Members of the faculty were frequently in attendance and occasionally occupied places in the program. The members of the Society took wholesome interest in these literary exercises and, from time to time, the more proficient presentations were repeated at a general convocation of the student body.

In all its outward aspects, Tau Phi Delta possessed the characteristics of a fraternity chapter. It was strictly secret and possessed a password and a grip and included an initiatory ritual. Its badge was a simple black shield, with a border of gold, upon which were displayed the Greek letters TΦΔ. The colors were black and gold, and the red clover was the official flower.

Internal strife never at any time threatened the life or usefulness of the organization, though a few members did resign on account of grievances real or imaginary, and a few were expelled on account of conduct which the Fraternity could neither countenance nor ignore.

The Fraternity always enjoyed the respect and esteem of the members of the faculty. On one occasion a member of the faculty approached the officers with a proposition of petitioning his fraternity,



which was one of the leading national organizations of that character, for a charter. The members of Tau Phi Delta, though appreciating the compliment, concluded not to take this step.

In the winter of 1903-04 the Fraternity ceased to meet in the college building and rented a small cottage at 110 South Third Street. This building was occupied until the end of the college year and was considered the first Chapter house occupied by the Fraternity. During the following year a large hall over a business house on Main Street was rented. This was given up about 1907 for a suite of rooms in the old colonial residence of Judge J.P.L. Weems, at 222 North Fourth Street.

The Niblack-Weems homestead is one of the landmarks of Vincennes. The boundary line between the state of Indiana and Illinois was projected from one corner of the house. It was the boyhood home of Rear Admiral Albert P. Niblack, USN, and of his brother, Hon. Mason J. Niblack, who was the first president of the international legal fraternity, Phi Delta Phi. It was also the home, for many years, of Judge James P. L. Weems, an early national president of Delta Tau Delta and the founder of *The Rainbow*, the fraternity's journal. It was here that the Fraternity was reorganized as Sigma Pi, and here the so-called first national convention occurred.

Tau Phi Delta first began to show signs of expansion about 1904-05. The beginning of the college year found three members of the Fraternity attending the University of Illinois and seven at Indiana University. In May, 1905, the members at Indiana effected an organization and petitioned the mother chapter for authority to establish a second chapter there. The petition, however, was denied, the members feeling that the proposed chapter would be unable to compete with the fraternities on the state university campus. During that year also, the organiza-

tion first began to call itself officially a fraternity, and steps were taken toward incorporation under the laws of Indiana. A proposal of one of the members to expand the Fraternity into a national organization with chapters in junior colleges was also considered, and some correspondence with that end in view was had with groups of students at Union Christian College at Merom, IN, and Oakland City College at Oakland City, IN. Suitable material was not found and the project was abandoned without formal action.

February 11, 1907, is a significant date in the Fraternity's history. It was then that the members last assembled as Tau Phi Delta and first assumed the name of Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States.

With the conclusion of the college year at Vincennes in June, 1909, Alpha chapter became inactive, although the charter was not withdrawn until the year following. The attendance at the college had decreased to a point where it became very doubtful if suitable material for a fraternity chapter could any longer be found, and the more aggressive alumni members quite properly concluded to devote their time and energies to the problems of the national organization, rather than to attempt to keep the mother chapter alive amid such unpromising surroundings. Alpha Chapter has, however, returned to Vincennes since that time.

**It is quite evident that our Fraternity nearly met its end before it even began moving forward. Rolin Rosco James never lost sight of the vision, and his reward was great. The early happenings of our Fraternity demonstrate to all of us that people with a vision will accomplish much. The perseverance of the founders and the men that directly followed them allowed the vision to grow into the outstanding fraternity that today is Sigma Pi.** ❏



# History of the Fraternity



**Rolin Rosco James**



**William Raper Kennedy**



**James Thompson Kingsbury**



**George Martin Patterson**

# The Growth of Sigma Pi

**F**raternal groups are not something that developed with the introduction of the first national collegiate fraternities. Societies such as ours have been around for centuries dating back to the time of the ancient Greeks and the Romans. Other fraternal groups such as the Masons and the Knights of Columbus, have existed for many years. Being a part of something that is a mystery has always been considered an honor.

Every collegiate fraternity can trace its existence back to the Flat Hat Club which operated at the College of William and Mary, much the same as we all trace our Fraternity's existence back to Vincennes University and Tau Phi Delta. By the end of the 19th century, there were 37 national collegiate fraternities in existence. Sigma Pi was one of the last fraternities founded in the 19th century and is the oldest fraternity, next to the Miami Triad, to be founded west of the Ohio River. However, once the members of Sigma Pi began to refer to our Fraternity as a "national" organization, steps had to be taken in order to operate much like the other national collegiate fraternities.



*Byron R. Lewis, Past Grand Herald and Honorary Grand Sage*

Lisman (A, Vincennes '05), was elected the first Grand Sage of Sigma Pi. It was his responsibility to lead the Fraternity in its quest to become a prominent national organization. Over the years, many exemplary men have assumed the role of Grand Sage and, with their direction the Fraternity has continued to move forward.

During that same year, two more chapters were added to the roll of the Fraternity: Sigma Delta local fraternity at Temple University became Kappa Chapter and Sigma Omicron Pi at the University of Pennsylvania became Delta Chapter. By the year 1919, fourteen campuses in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, New York, and Iowa hosted chapters of Sigma Pi.

Many other significant events took place during the early years of the Fraternity. In 1910, M. Atlee Ermold (K, Temple '12) and Byron R. Lewis rewrote the ritual of the Fraternity and named it the *Golden Quest*. The ritual was quickly adopted and has been used ever since. Also during that year, Sigma Pi became one of the first fraternities to join the National Interfraternity Conference which governs all men's collegiate fraternities. By doing so, the Fraternity solidified its position as one of the leading national collegiate fraternities.

As the Fraternity grew, it was necessary to develop some type of communication vehicle between the members. On July 15, 1911, the Fraternity published the

## The Early Days

The members of the Fraternity first began to think about expanding in 1905, but concrete steps were not taken until the Sphinx Club at the University of Illinois was installed as Phi Chapter in 1908. Byron R. Lewis (Φ, Illinois '07) was the man most responsible for making this happen. During that same year, Phi Kappa Phi local fraternity at The Ohio State University was installed as Gamma Chapter reaffirming the effort of Sigma Pi to become a renowned national organization.

The Fraternity held its first Convocation in Columbus, OH, in 1909. During this national meeting, Francis L.



*Francis L. Lisman, first Grand Sage of Sigma Pi, 1908-1909*



*Louis L. Moore, Past Grand Sage and first editor of the Emerald*





*Members of Upsilon Chapter at UCLA*

first issue of the *Emerald*. The original constitution of the Fraternity allowed for a publication to be named the *Sigma Pi Chronicle*, but a publication by that name was never produced. Louis L. Moore (K, Temple '09) acted as the first editor of the *Emerald*. Although not experienced in the ways of publications, he managed to construct an impressive issue. Every chapter contributed to its content and a listing of the membership was included on the last four pages of the twenty-four page publication. As a result of Brother Moore's work, a membership directory was also published during the decade. Immediately after publication of the first *Emerald*, Brother Moore began work on the next issue. However, due to the lack of financial support, the project had to be abandoned. The next issue of the *Emerald* did not appear until October 1914 under the direction of Luther Weeks (H, Purdue '12). The Fraternity has published an issue of the magazine regularly ever since then.

The end of the decade brought a World War to the lives of our members. Men across college campuses were called to fight for their country. Due to this, enrollments on college campuses dramatically declined. The Fraternity took measures to ensure its survival and only one chapter was forced to close its doors during the war.

### *The Roaring Twenties*

The decade following World War I was a fruitful one for all fraternities, especially Sigma Pi. With the war over, men were returning to college campuses to complete their educations and enrollments swelled to record heights. Sigma Pi decided to take full advantage of the situation. During the decade, the Fraternity doubled its number of chapters to twenty-eight. The first chapter to be installed during the decade was Omicron Chapter at Tulane University in New Orleans in 1920. The last chapter to be installed during the decade was the Alpha-Epsilon Chapter at Mercer College in Macon, GA, in 1927. The Fraternity then boasted twenty-six active chapters in sixteen states around the country with only Alpha and Kappa Chapters being inactive. Along with expanding the reaches of Sigma Pi, the members were busy doing other things.

A number of different occurrences during the decade proved very significant to the progress of the Fraternity. On Founders' Day 1923, the Sigma Pi Foundation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. A report to the 1922 Convocation provided the basic plan for the endowment whose principal would be held in perpetuity and invested in conservative securities. All Sigma Pi alumni were encouraged to become Life

Members for a subscription rate of \$50. The first trustees of the fund were Judge Curtis G. Shake (A, Vincennes '06), Harry H. Smith (Ξ, Iowa '23) and A.W. Turner (Σ, Iowa State '17). On July 3 of that same year, the Grand Chapter also incorporated in Indiana as Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States, Inc. This incorporation, and the funding of the Sigma Pi Foundation, paved the way for the establishment of a central office that the officers and members so desperately wished to start.

In a report to the 1926 Convocation, delegates put forth a proposal to establish a central office of the Fraternity for the express purpose of compiling the historical records and centralizing the business affairs of the Fraternity. Upon the recommendation of Grand Sage Herman S. Sidener (Λ, Kenyon '21), the Grand Council appointed Harold S. Jacobsen (Λ, Kenyon '24) to be the first, full-time Executive Secretary of the Fraternity. Brother Jacobsen began his thirty-seven year term on May 15, 1926 when he met in Tiffin, OH, with Grand Sage Sidener and Foundation Chairman Louis L. Schreiber (Φ, Illinois '22). The first central office of the Fraternity was in Brother Jacobsen's home in Roselle, NJ. Within a short time, the headquarters was moved



*Harold Jacobsen, Executive Secretary/Director 1926-1963*

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to the movie building in Roselle, then, to Elizabeth, NJ, in 1929.

With a central office in place, producing publications for the members became a much easier task. However, most of the publications that were produced during the decade were introduced prior to the establishment of the Executive Office. Only the chapter officer manual was compiled by the Executive Secretary. The manual was introduced in 1927. It outlined the specific responsibilities of each officer and gave specific instructions on how to carry out the duties of each chapter officer. Prior to this moment, other members had been extremely busy producing other publications. In 1920, the ritual of the Fraternity was finally issued in printed form to the chapters. Prior to that, it had only been available in manuscript or mimeograph form. Also in 1920, the first printed songbook of the Fraternity was made available to the members. A committee composed of



Installation team at Alpha-Upsilon Chapter at the University of Rhode Island

James P. DeWolfe (A, **Kenyon '17**), Phillip W. Timberlake (A, **Kenyon '17**), Herman S. Sidener, and W.H. Fenzel (E, **Ohio '17**) produced the first songbook. In 1925, the words to "Sigma Pi Sweetheart" were published in sheet format for those wishing to obtain the music. *The Sigma Pi Book*, the first manual outlining the history of Sigma Pi, was written and produced in 1923.

It was an extremely exciting and productive time for the Fraternity. With the establishment of the central office, managing the growing organization became a much easier task. Because of the hard work and energy expended during the decade, the Fraternity was in a good position for what lay immediately ahead.

### *The Depression Years*

Very few people, businesses, and organizations can truthfully say that they survived the Great Depression completely intact. After the "crash" of the stock market in 1929, the country suffered greatly. The Fraternity's mettle was truly tested during this period. Despite tough economic times, the Fraternity was still able to add eight more chapters to its roll during the decade. The first chapter to be installed was Alpha-Zeta in May of 1930 at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York. The final chapter to be added to the roll during the decade was Alpha-Mu Chapter at the Newark College of Engineering (later changed to the New Jersey Institute of Technology) in November of 1938. There was a significant development during the decade that would forever affect the Fraternity's expansion program.

Alpha-Lambda Chapter was installed at the Mississippi State University on December 11, 1937. This chapter receives special recognition because it

Louis M. Foley, past editor of the Emerald.

was the first chapter to be installed without ever existing as a local fraternity prior to its affiliation with Sigma Pi. Prior to 1936, every charter issued by the Fraternity was granted to a local organization which had already been in existence. However, with the help of some dedicated local alumni and the active chapter at Auburn University, a fine group of men were pledged, and formed the nucleus of a Sigma Pi Colony. The colonization process proved to be a success and the program was ultimately used at many other universities.

The development of the Expansion Program and other services to the chapters necessitated a look at the ability of the Executive Office to meet all of the chapters' needs. The Fraternity had reached a point to where Brother Jacobsen could only visit each chapter for a short period of time, approximately every two years. Therefore, upon the recommendation of a special committee appointed by Grand Sage Otto M. Buerger (M, **Cornell '20**) and at the request of the chapters, the first full-time traveling secretary for the Fraternity was hired. The member who assumed the role was James H. Hauser (K, **Temple '37**). This was the next crucial step in professionalizing the services the Executive Office provided to the chapters and members of the Fraternity.

Another major development of the decade was the introduction of the Keryx, the esoteric publication of the Fraternity. It was first published in 1931 and has been printed ever since when the need arises. The Keryx is the confidential messenger of the Fraternity and includes information communicated only to initiated members.

Even though the Fraternity continued to expand both its number of chapters and its services, the overriding theme of the period was the decline in membership and the number of active chapters. There were a number of factors that contributed to this decline, but the most prominent was that of the economic depression. Membership declined throughout the period and chapters could not meet their financial obligations. The general outlook for the Fraternity was not positive, but a new decade spawned new hope.





*Shadowwood Memorial Headquarters*

### *The Resurgence of the Forties*

With the beginning of the 1940's, the United States was preparing to enter World War II. With the war came an economic resurgence, but it also meant that chapter membership was again severely affected. By the end of the war, only eleven chapters remained active. Even though chapters were being closed at an alarming rate, the Fraternity still managed to add another chapter to its roll at Wake Forest University in May of 1940.

The end of the war brought new life to the Fraternity. War veterans were returning to college campuses in record numbers to complete their education. The result was the reactivation of many wardormant chapters. Soon after the end of the war, thirteen chapters reopened their doors and another five did so by the end of the decade. Sigma Pi was back on the track of being a leading men's collegiate fraternity.

With all universities experiencing such a dramatic increase in enrollment, the timing was perfect to open chapters on new campuses. At the 1946 Convocation, the delegates voted in favor of expanding

the Fraternity. Later that year, Thomas F. Ham, Jr. (Y, **UCLA '44**) assumed the responsibility of implementing the expansion program. He was succeeded by Grand Second Counselor William A. Smith (H, **Purdue '19**) in 1948. During the tenure of these two men, Sigma Pi was able to establish chapters on seventeen campuses between 1948 and 1950 with a majority being formed through the model utilized at Mississippi State. The year 1948 was a record setting expansion year for Sigma Pi as eight new groups were installed, from

California in the west, to Georgia in the south, to Rhode Island in the east. By the end of the decade, the chapter roll included forty-one active chapters.

Along with the record growth, three other developments marked the decade as prosperous. The first was the introduction of *The Sigma Pi Manual*, the Fraternity's first pledge manual. Executive Secretary Jacobsen, with the assistance of Louis M. Foley (E, **Ohio '15**), edited the manual and monitored its publication. Since 1940, each pledge of the Fraternity has



*Members of the Alpha Iota Chapter from the University of Missouri-Rolla at the installation of Gamma Sigma Chapter at the University of Missouri-Columbia*

History of the Fraternity

# GRAND CHAPTER ROLL

| CHAPTER       | INSTALLATION DATE | SCHOOL                          | CHAPTER         | INSTALLATION DATE | SCHOOL                               |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alpha         | 02/26/1897        | Vincennes University            | Beta-Tau        | 04/02/1960        | Valparaiso University                |
| Phi           | 05/21/1908        | University of Illinois          | Beta-Upsilon    | 04/23/1960        | Shippensburg University              |
| Gamma         | 06/06/1908        | Ohio State University           | Beta-Phi        | 05/14/1960        | Rochester Institute of Tech.         |
| Kappa         | 03/13/1909        | Temple University               | Beta-Chi        | 02/11/1961        | Loyola University of Chicago         |
| Delta         | 06/05/1909        | University of Pennsylvania      | Beta-Psi        | 11/18/1961        | East Stroudsburg University          |
| Epsilon       | 05/07/1910        | Ohio University                 | Beta-Omega      | 12/09/1961        | Lock Haven University                |
| Zeta          | 06/01/1912        | Ohio Northern University        | Gamma-Alpha     | 05/04/1962        | University of Detroit-Mercy          |
| Eta           | 06/08/1912        | Purdue University               | Gamma-Beta      | 05/05/1962        | Eastern Michigan University          |
| Theta         | 10/26/1912        | Pennsylvania State University   | Gamma-Gamma     | 05/13/1962        | Central Missouri State Univ.         |
| Iota          | 05/05/1913        | Univ. of California-Berkeley    | Gamma-Delta     | 12/02/1962        | Slippery Rock University             |
| Lambda        | 05/13/1916        | Kenyon College                  | Gamma-Epsilon   | 11/12/1963        | Fairmont State College               |
| Mu            | 05/18/1917        | Cornell University              | Gamma-Zeta      | 03/07/1964        | Parsons College                      |
| Nu            | 04/27/1918        | Franklin and Marshall College   | Gamma-Eta       | 03/14/1964        | Rutgers State University             |
| Xi            | 05/30/1918        | University of Iowa              | Gamma-Theta     | 01/09/1965        | University of Texas                  |
| Omicron       | 03/27/1920        | Tulane University               | Delta-Omicron   | 11/14/1964        | Univ. of Wisconsin - Milwaukee       |
| Pi            | 03/27/1920        | University of Utah              | Delta-Sigma     | 11/15/1964        | University of Wisconsin - Stout      |
| Rho           | 05/28/1921        | North Carolina State Univ.      | Delta-Chi       | 03/27/1965        | Western St. College of Colorado      |
| Sigma         | 04/15/1922        | Iowa State University           | Gamma-Iota      | 05/01/1965        | Worcester Polytechnic Institute      |
| Tau           | 05/20/1922        | University of Wisconsin         | Gamma-Kappa     | 03/19/1966        | Indiana Institute of Technology      |
| Upsilon       | 02/24/1923        | Univ. of Calif.-Los Angeles     | Gamma-Lambda    | 05/21/1966        | Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point     |
| Chi           | 03/23/1923        | University of Pittsburgh        | Gamma-Mu        | 05/22/1966        | University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh      |
| Psi           | 03/29/1924        | Emory University                | Gamma-Nu        | 10/15/1966        | University of Akron                  |
| Omega         | 05/10/1924        | Oregon State University         | Gamma-Xi        | 04/22/1967        | West Virginia Institute of Tech.     |
| Beta          | 05/31/1924        | Indiana University              | Gamma-Omicron   | 05/06/1967        | University of Findlay                |
| Alpha-Beta    | 04/04/1925        | University of Michigan          | Gamma-Pi        | 05/13/1967        | Indiana State University             |
| Alpha-Gamma   | 01/09/1926        | University of Washington        | Gamma-Rho       | 10/21/1967        | Western Michigan University          |
| Alpha-Delta   | 02/26/1926        | Auburn University               | Gamma-Sigma     | 11/18/1967        | University of Missouri               |
| Alpha-Epsilon | 02/26/1927        | Mercer College                  | Gamma-Tau       | 04/20/1968        | Georgia Southern University          |
| Alpha-Zeta    | 05/17/1930        | Saint Lawrence University       | Gamma-Upsilon   | 05/04/1968        | Murray State University              |
| Alpha-Eta     | 06/06/1931        | College of William and Mary     | Delta-Gamma     | 05/18/1968        | Milton College                       |
| Alpha-Theta   | 06/15/1931        | Beloit College                  | Gamma-Phi       | 05/18/1968        | Univ. of Wisconsin - Whitewater      |
| Alpha-Iota    | 04/29/1933        | University of Missouri-Rolla    | Gamma-Chi       | 05/25/1968        | Quinnipiac College                   |
| Alpha-Kappa   | 05/24/1936        | Louisiana State University      | Gamma-Psi       | 02/01/1969        | Saint Louis University               |
| Alpha-Lambda  | 12/11/1937        | Mississippi State University    | Gamma-Omega     | 02/14/1969        | Wayne State University               |
| Alpha-Mu      | 11/26/1938        | New Jersey Institute of Tech.   | Delta-Alpha     | 02/16/1969        | Central Michigan University          |
| Alpha-Nu      | 05/12/1940        | Wake Forest University          | Delta-Beta      | 03/22/1969        | Monmouth University                  |
| Alpha-Xi      | 02/26/1948        | Calif. State Univ. - Fresno     | Delta-Epsilon   | 03/23/1969        | Seton Hall University                |
| Alpha-Omicron | 02/28/1948        | California - Santa Barbara      | Delta-Zeta      | 04/12/1969        | Univ. of Missouri-Saint Louis        |
| Alpha-Pi      | 03/07/1948        | Arkansas State University       | Delta-Eta       | 11/23/1969        | Youngstown State University          |
| Alpha-Rho     | 04/01/1948        | So. west Missouri State Univ.   | Delta-Theta     | 02/07/1970        | Corpus Christi State University      |
| Alpha-Sigma   | 04/02/1948        | University of Arkansas          | Delta-Iota      | 04/11/1970        | Univ. of Wisconsin-Platteville       |
| Alpha-Tau     | 04/04/1948        | Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana | Delta-Lambda    | 04/24/1970        | Louisiana Tech University            |
| Alpha-Upsilon | 09/25/1948        | University of Rhode Island      | Delta-Mu        | 05/08/1970        | Salem-Teikyo University              |
| Alpha-Phi     | 10/24/1948        | University of Georgia           | Delta-Pi        | 05/09/1970        | Bloomsburg State College             |
| Alpha-Chi     | 03/04/1949        | University of Maryland          | Delta-Nu        | 11/14/1970        | Ball State University                |
| Alpha-Psi     | 05/14/1949        | Utah State University           | Delta-Xi        | 12/01/1970        | Southern Utah University             |
| Alpha-Omega   | 05/18/1949        | San Diego State University      | Delta-Rho       | 04/17/1971        | Morehead State University            |
| Beta-Gamma    | 06/10/1949        | Eastern Illinois University     | Delta-Tau       | 05/16/1971        | Indiana University-South Bend        |
| Beta-Delta    | 03/25/1950        | University of Kansas            | Delta-Upsilon   | 04/22/1971        | Virginia Polytechnic Institute       |
| Beta-Epsilon  | 04/29/1950        | Syracuse University             | Delta-Phi       | 10/30/1971        | University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse   |
| Beta-Zeta     | 05/13/1950        | University of Miami (FL)        | Delta-Psi       | 11/12/1971        | Troy State University                |
| Beta-Eta      | 10/21/1950        | San Jose State University       | Delta-Omega     | 04/08/1972        | Southern Illinois Univ.-Edwardsville |
| Beta-Theta    | 11/18/1950        | Drexel University               | Epsilon-Alpha   | 10/28/1972        | Southern Polytechnic State Univ      |
| Beta-Iota     | 04/28/1951        | Northern Arizona University     | Epsilon-Beta    | 10/20/1973        | University of Kentucky               |
| Beta-Kappa    | 04/20/1951        | Arizona State University        | Epsilon-Gamma   | 01/25/1975        | Illinois Wesleyan University         |
| Beta-Lambda   | 05/23/1953        | Lycoming College                | Epsilon-Delta   | 05/31/1975        | Columbus College                     |
| Beta-Mu       | 09/27/1953        | University of Mississippi       | Epsilon-Epsilon | 03/06/1976        | Emporia State University             |
| Beta-Nu       | 01/15/1955        | Southern Illinois-Carbondale    | Epsilon-Zeta    | 05/01/1976        | Western Illinois University          |
| Beta-Xi       | 02/05/1955        | New Mexico State University     | Epsilon-Eta     | 03/19/1977        | Illinois State University            |
| Beta-Omicron  | 03/12/1955        | Calif. State Univ.-Long Beach   | Epsilon-Theta   | 04/23/1977        | Elon College                         |
| Beta-Pi       | 04/04/1959        | University of Virginia          | Epsilon-Iota    | 11/19/1977        | California State Univ.-Northridge    |
| Beta-Rho      | 04/25/1959        | Barton College                  | 2Epsilon-Kappa  | 12/03/1977        | Southern Arkansas University         |
| Beta-Sigma    | 05/23/1959        | Northern Illinois University    | Epsilon-Lambda  | 04/22/1978        | Eastern Kentucky University          |

| CHAPTER         | INSTALLATION DATE | SCHOOL                            |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Epsilon-Mu      | 04/29/1978        | James Madison University          |
| Epsilon-Nu      | 12/10/1978        | California State Univ.-Fullerton  |
| Epsilon-Xi      | 05/06/1979        | Fairleigh Dickinson University    |
| Epsilon-Omicron | 12/01/1979        | State Univ. of New York-Buffalo   |
| Epsilon-Pi      | 04/04/1981        | Christopher Newport University    |
| Epsilon-Rho     | 04/17/1982        | Drury College                     |
| Epsilon-Sigma   | 04/17/1982        | Loyola Marymount University       |
| Epsilon-Tau     | 05/01/1982        | University of Tennessee-Martin    |
| Epsilon-Upsilon | 11/13/1982        | University of California - Davis  |
| Epsilon-Phi     | 11/20/1982        | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical (AZ)    |
| Epsilon-Chi     | 04/16/1983        | University of San Diego           |
| Epsilon-Psi     | 04/23/1983        | Widener University                |
| Epsilon-Omega   | 11/05/1983        | State U of NY-Potsdam             |
| Zeta-Alpha      | 02/04/1984        | West Chester University           |
| Zeta-Beta       | 02/25/1984        | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical (FL)    |
| Zeta-Gamma      | 04/28/1984        | Millersville University           |
| Zeta-Delta      | 04/28/1984        | University of Colorado            |
| Zeta-Epsilon    | 04/28/1984        | Michigan Tech University          |
| Zeta-Zeta       | 10/27/1984        | University of Florida             |
| Zeta-Eta        | 01/19/1985        | Santa Clara University            |
| Zeta-Theta      | 01/26/1985        | St. U of NY-Plattsburgh           |
| Zeta-Iota       | 03/02/1985        | University of Western Ontario     |
| Zeta-Kappa      | 04/13/1985        | Cal State Univ.-Bakersfield       |
| Zeta-Lambda     | 04/27/1985        | University of Southern California |
| Zeta-Mu         | 05/18/1985        | Michigan State Univ.              |
| Zeta-Nu         | 11/09/1985        | Villanova University              |
| Zeta-Xi         | 12/14/1985        | Southeastern Oklahoma St. Univ.   |
| Zeta-Omicron    | 01/11/1986        | Lawrence Technical University     |
| Zeta-Pi         | 03/15/1986        | Oakland University                |
| Zeta-Rho        | 03/22/1986        | Edinboro University               |
| Zeta-Sigma      | 04/05/1986        | North Carolina Wesleyan College   |
| Zeta-Tau        | 05/09/1987        | University of Northern Colorado   |
| Zeta-Upsilon    | 05/16/1987        | Univ. of California-San Diego     |
| Zeta-Phi        | 09/26/1987        | Southeastern Louisiana Univ.      |
| Zeta-Chi        | 03/05/1988        | Rowan College                     |
| Zeta-Psi        | 04/16/1988        | West Virginia University          |
| Zeta-Omega      | 04/23/1988        | University of Nevada-Reno         |
| Eta-Alpha       | 04/23/1988        | Cal. State Univ.-Sacramento       |
| Eta-Beta        | 04/30/1988        | Southern Connecticut St. Univ.    |
| Eta-Gamma       | 05/07/1988        | Hofstra University                |
| Eta-Delta       | 05/21/1988        | California Poly - San Luis Obispo |
| Eta-Epsilon     | 11/19/1988        | Florida State University          |
| Eta-Zeta        | 04/08/1989        | Western Connecticut State Univ.   |
| Eta-Eta         | 04/15/1989        | Bridgewater State College         |
| Eta-Theta       | 04/22/1989        | York College                      |
| Eta-Iota        | 05/13/1989        | Cal. State Univ.-Dominguez Hills  |
| Eta-Kappa       | 04/21/1990        | East Carolina University          |
| Eta-Lambda      | 04/28/1990        | State Univ. of New York-Albany    |
| Eta-Mu          | 05/05/1990        | Missouri Southern State College   |
| Eta-Nu          | 10/27/1990        | Towson State University           |
| Eta-Xi          | 11/10/1990        | Univ. of North Carolina-Asheville |
| Eta-Omicron     | 01/19/1991        | University of Toronto             |
| Eta-Pi          | 12/12/1991        | Kutztown University               |
| Eta-Rho         | 04/11/1992        | Carleton University               |
| Eta-Sigma       | 04/24/1993        | Colorado State University         |
| Eta-Tau         | 02/19/1994        | Fitchburg State College           |
| Eta-Upsilon     | 03/11/1995        | University of California - Irvine |
| Eta-Phi         | 03/25/1995        | Miami University (OH)             |
| Eta-Chi         | 05/13/1995        | DePaul University                 |
| Eta-Psi         | 04/20/1996        | Clemson University                |
| Eta-Omega       | 09/27/1996        | Johnson & Wales University        |
| Colony          |                   | Clarion University                |
| Colony          |                   | Saginaw Valley State              |
| Colony          |                   | University of West Alabama        |
| Colony          |                   | Pepperdine University             |

received a copy of the pledge manual upon receipt of his forms and fees. The manual outlined the history, ideals, heraldry, and government of the Fraternity.

In 1947, the Fraternity held a special celebration commemorating the Golden Anniversary of Sigma Pi. The special Convocation was called by Grand Sage Becher W. Hungerford (AB, **Michigan '24**) and was held in Indianapolis, IN, on September 6. George Martin Patterson, one of the four founding fathers, was present at the celebration along with all living past grand sages and other distinguished alumni. Also during that year, the Fraternity initiated its 10,000th member.

The following year, Past Grand Herald Byron R. Lewis made several monetary contributions to the Fraternity for the express purpose of forming some type of educational fund. During the 1948 Convocation, the delegates voted to form the Byron R. Lewis Educational Fund. A proposal for the administration of the fund was put forth by Past Grand Sage M. Atlee Ermold which was unanimously approved by the Convocation. Under the plan the immediate Past Grand Sage of the Fraternity automatically became the Chairman of the Board. The first chairman was Jonathan B. Hillegass (N, **Franklin and Marshall '20**) and his fellow trustees were Grand Sage Hungerford, Past Grand Sage Atlee Ermold, Past Grand Sage Cyrus E. Palmer (Φ, **Illinois '12**), and Executive Secretary Jacobsen. They were responsible for the proper administration of the fund.

The 1940's became a springboard for the Fraternity. Membership was once again steadily climbing, new chapters were being started everywhere, and the infrastructure of the Fraternity continued to solidify.

### *The Fifties*

The decade of the 1950's saw a leveling off of college enrollments. Once again, another war had an effect on the college environment. The growth of the Fraternity slowed some, but fifteen new chapters were established by the end of the decade. However, a number of chapters were forced to close their doors due to declining membership.

At the 1950 Convocation, the original trustees of the Byron R. Lewis Educational Fund recommended that the fund be reorganized and incorporated as an entity separate from the Fraternity. The Board of Trustees would then be elected only by the Fund's membership. The delegates approved the plan, and on June 5, 1952, the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana.

The Sigma Pi Foundation also underwent some reorganization and changes during the decade. In

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1954, the delegates to the Convocation voted that a \$25 fee was to be paid to the Foundation by each man upon initiation. In 1957, a complete constitution and set of bylaws were adopted by the Foundation. The new constitution allowed for the Foundation to govern itself and elect its own officers.

The decade of the 1950's was a time for the Fraternity to collect itself and get the house in order. Changes were made that would forever affect the operation of the Fraternity, but the purpose and goals of Sigma Pi did not change.

### The Sixties

The decade of the 1960's was a time of intense growth, change, and a return to the past for the Fraternity. Sigma Pi opened thirty-six chapters boosting the chapter roll to 102 by the end of the decade. The 100th chapter of Sigma Pi was installed as Delta Epsilon Chapter at Seton Hall University in 1969. The growth of the Fraternity was also aided by a merger. In 1964, Sigma Pi absorbed four chapters of Delta Kappa Fraternity.

The decade also saw the reactivation of Alpha Chapter. Grand Sage Frank C. Fryburg (Θ, Penn State '49) encouraged the Fraternity to pursue the endeavor and through the efforts of several dedicated alumni including Judge Curtis Shake, the chapter was reactivated in 1965. Before it could be reactivated, though, the Fraternity had to petition the National Interfraternity Conference for special permission because NIC rules forbid member organizations from colonizing at junior colleges. (Earlier in the century, Vincennes had to cut its programs due to dropping enrollment and became a Junior College.) The delegates of the NIC gladly accepted the request of Sigma Pi and, due to the success of the colonization, the ban was repealed later in the decade.

The most significant event of the decade, and possibly in the history of the Fraternity, was the establishment of Shadowwood as the Executive Office of the Fraternity. The wife of the late Colonel Eugene C. Wharf gave to Vincennes University the house and property which her late husband had so painstakingly built. The university had no



Judge Shake and members of Alpha Chapter at the old Carriage House.

plans for the estate, so, at the urging of Judge Shake, the university allowed Sigma Pi to take possession of the property and utilize it as its headquarters. The estate was dedicated in the memory of the four founding fathers on August 30, 1962, and on July 1, 1963, the Fraternity officially moved its operations to the estate. It was also on this date that Harold Jacobsen retired as the Executive

Director of Sigma Pi after thirty-seven years of service to the Fraternity. James L. Hills (AX, Maryland '54), Brother Jacobsen's assistant, took over as Executive Secretary upon the Fraternity's arrival at Shadowwood.

In 1968, the Sigma Pi Foundation moved its operations to Vincennes as well. It was also during this year that the Foundation Board voted to employ someone on a full-time basis to handle the day to day operations of the ever growing fund. The Board voted to employ D. Dean Crook (BΓ, Eastern Illinois '59) as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Foundation.

The decade was a time of great change for the Fraternity. For the first time in its history, the Fraternity operated under the direction of someone other than Harold Jacobsen. The move to Shadowwood also meant the beginning of a new era.



Members of the Beta-Pi Chapter at the University of Virginia

### The Super Seventies

The decade of the 1970's was a time of great expansion in the interfraternity world. During the decade, Sigma Pi chartered twenty-eight new groups beginning with the Delta Theta Chapter at Corpus Christi State University in Texas and concluding with the Epsilon Omicron Chapter at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

The Fraternity underwent a couple of leadership changes during the decade. In



*Founding fathers of the Epsilon-Beta Chapter at the University of Kentucky*

1971, Executive Secretary Hills resigned and Secretary-Treasurer of the Sigma Pi Foundation, Dean Crook, was appointed to replace him. Executive Secretary Crook was then promoted to the position of Executive Director at the 1974 Convocation. In 1978, Executive Director Crook resigned and was replaced by William C. Marrs ( $\Delta Y$ , Troy State '74). Executive Secretary Marrs led the Fraternity into the next decade.

In 1972, the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation moved its operations to Vincennes so that the Fraternity and the Educational Foundation could better complement each other. The fund continued to grow, but, would not experience significant growth until the 1980's.

A number of awards were created during the decade to recognize the achievements of chapters. The delegates at the 1972 Convocation voted to redefine the Grand Sage's Award so that it would be given to the most outstanding chapter of Sigma Pi. Past Grand Sage William J. Cutbirth (Y, UCLA '44) donated the trophy for the award to the Grand Chapter. Also during that Convocation, the delegates voted to create a Most Improved Chapter Award. Previously, the Grand Sage's Award had been awarded to the chapter showing the most improvement during the biennium. Finally, during that same year, Past Grand Sage Cutbirth created the Community Service Award to recognize the chapter or chapters which performed the most notable service projects.

Past Grand Sage Cutbirth's service and

## GRAND SAGES

|                               |               |           |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Mr. Francis L Lisman          | Alpha         | 1908-1909 |
| Mr. Winford Mattoon           | Gamma         | 1909-1910 |
| Mr. M. Atlee Ermold           | Kappa         | 1910-1912 |
| Mr. George C Blower           | Epsilon       | 1912-1914 |
| Mr. Louis L Moore             | Kappa         | 1914-1916 |
| Mr. William D Akers Jr.       | Zeta          | 1916-1920 |
| Mr. Cyrus E Palmer            | Phi           | 1920-1926 |
| Mr. Herman S Sidener          | Lambda        | 1926-1930 |
| Mr. E. Paul Cook              | Iota          | 1930-1934 |
| Mr. Otto M Buerger II         | Mu            | 1934-1938 |
| Mr. Jonathan B Hillegass Esq. | Nu            | 1938-1946 |
| Mr. Becher W Hungerford       | Alpha-Beta    | 1946-1950 |
| Mr. William A Smith           | Eta           | 1950-1952 |
| Mr. Richard G Lowe            | Theta         | 1952-1954 |
| Mr. Stedman C Gould           | Upsilon       | 1954-1956 |
| Mr. Alexander E Wilson Jr.    | Psi           | 1956-1958 |
| Mr. Ward Ashman               | Gamma         | 1958-1960 |
| Mr. William J Cutbirth Jr.    | Upsilon       | 1960-1962 |
| Mr. Frank C Fryburg           | Theta         | 1962-1964 |
| Mr. J. Robert O'Daniell       | Beta-Nu       | 1964-1966 |
| Mr. Lyle H Smith              | Phi           | 1966-1968 |
| Hon. Kenneth C Hughes         | Omicron       | 1968-1970 |
| Mr. Darrell L Spriggs         | Alpha-Sigma   | 1970-1972 |
| Mr. Robert R Wieland          | Gamma         | 1972-1974 |
| Mr. Howard H Beyer            | Alpha-Mu      | 1974-1976 |
| Mr. James S Verplanck         | Beta-Mu       | 1976-1978 |
| Mr. Michael P Carey           | Beta-Omicron  | 1978-1980 |
| Dr. Robert L Burns            | Delta-Phi     | 1980-1982 |
| Mr. Gary B Tash               | Beta-Pi       | 1982-1984 |
| Mr. Eli R Sidwell Jr.         | Beta-Gamma    | 1984-1986 |
| Mr. John J Merino Jr.         | Beta-Omicron  | 1986-1988 |
| Mr. Gregory J Evans           | Beta-Phi      | 1988-1990 |
| Dr. Dennis V Day              | Alpha-Rho     | 1990-1992 |
| Mr. Mark A Metz               | Epsilon-Zeta  | 1992-1994 |
| Mr. Ed R McClane              | Beta-Gamma    | 1994-1996 |
| Dr. Jack C Fields             | Epsilon-Gamma | 1996-     |

commitment to Sigma Pi were unparalleled. In 1974, he served the interfraternal world as president of the NIC. He is the only Sigma Pi to serve in this capacity.

Another significant happening in 1974 was the creation of the position of Chapter Director. Previous to its inception, chapters had been grouped in areas called provinces of which an alumnus served as the Province Archon. The Province Archon made sure chapters were operating efficiently and obeying the rules

and regulations of both the Fraternity and the host institution. The Chapter Directors now assumed this role and in 1976, the position of Chapter Director was written into the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity.

As the decade drew to a close, the Fraternity was in an extremely strong position. Expansion had been very successful during the decade, and the operations of the Fraternity continued to move steadily forward.

## The Expanding Eighties

Expansion! That was the buzzword for Sigma Pi during the 1980's. Throughout the course of the decade, the Fraternity installed a record setting forty new chapters. The decade also saw the reopening of several dormant chapters. The first chapter of the decade to be installed was the Epsilon Pi Chapter at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA, and the last chapter of the decade to be installed was the Eta Iota Chapter at California State University-Dominguez Hills. In 1988, a record tying eight new chapters were installed. The Fraternity reached another milestone during the decade. At the 1984 Convocation, the delegates voted to expand into Canada officially establishing the Fraternity as an international organization. The first Canadian Chapter of Sigma Pi was installed as the Zeta Iota Chapter at Western Ontario University in 1985.

The only change at the top occurred in 1982 when Executive Secretary Marrs resigned. His replacement was E. Andrew Morris (ΓΥ, **Murray State '70**). In 1983, Executive Secretary Morris was granted the title of Executive Director.

During the 1980's, the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation grew at a rapid rate. Thanks to the generous contributions of a few select alumni including Dr. Lothar Iversen (T, **Wisconsin '27**), Col. Walter Lemmond (Ψ, **Emory '25**), Paul Murdock (Φ, **Illinois '15**), and Dan Breeden (ΑΔ, **Auburn '57**), a number of endowments were established. In 1986, the position of Executive Vice-President was created to handle the day to day oper-



*The rechartering of Sigma Chapter at Iowa State University*

ation of the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation. Jim Corridan (ΑΩ, **San Diego State '84**) was appointed to assume the position.

It was during this decade that the Grand Chapter also adopted some new awards. In 1982, the Grand Council Award was created to recognize three superior chapters based on the size of the institution which hosted them. Also, the Triad Award was created to recognize the top ten chapters of Sigma Pi. Later, the Triad Award was eliminated and the Grand Council Award was redefined to recognize the top ten chapters of Sigma Pi. Consequently, the Grand Sage's Award was then redefined and awarded to three superior chapters based on the size of their Greek system.

In 1984, Honorary Grand Sage Harold Jacobsen received the appreciation of his fellow interfraternal colleagues by accepting the NIC Gold Medal. The NIC Gold

Medal is the highest interfraternal award and is bestowed upon those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to the fraternal world over the years. HGS Jacobsen is the only Sigma Pi to receive this award.

The decade of the 1980's was a time of growth for Sigma Pi. The Fraternity world was in the midst of a boom, and Sigma Pi capitalized on that boom. The decade will surely be remembered as one that helped to set the stage for the future.

## The Present

Today, Sigma Pi is recognized as one of the leaders in the interfraternal world. Our Fraternity has continued to grow amidst growing societal pressures. During the decade, the Fraternity has installed fifteen new chapters, the newest being the Eta-Omega Chapter at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island. The Fraternity will continue to grow slowly but surely as it sets its sights on new campuses.

As we move into the next one hundred years, one must wonder what the future holds. So many things have happened that have shaped our Fraternity, and so many more things are happening now that will dictate how we operate in the future. One thing is for certain, though, Sigma Pi will continue to be at the forefront of the fraternity world, and we will continue to produce men of high caliber who are interested in making positive contributions to our society. 📌



*Members of the Zeta-Xi Chapter at Southeast Oklahoma State*



# Convocations

*Imagine, if you will, that you have been transported back in time. It is late in the spring of 1909 and you are on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. You are preparing to attend a "meeting" of the chapters of Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States. The only people you will know in this meeting are the group of men with whom you have traveled to Columbus. What is going through your mind at this point?*

Being a part of something that is happening for the very first time is an exciting proposition, no matter what the event may be; but, being a pioneer is also

very challenging. During the spring of 1908, the members organized a "National Congress" which was held in Vincennes, IN. At that meeting, the Fraternity received members from the Sphinx Club at the University of Illinois and of Phi Kappa Phi local fraternity at The Ohio State University. However, the first Biennial Convocation of Sigma Pi did not occur until the spring of 1909 in Columbus, OH. The fledgling fraternity was in the midst of a crisis from the onset of this meeting. The Patterson Episode had fully exploded and they had many other issues with which to deal, such as: where do we go from here? Regardless of the adversity, the anticipation and enthusiasm in the room during that first business session must have been tremendous. During that first Convocation, the members voted to add to their numbers by accepting the petition of Sigma Omicron Pi, a local fraternity at the University of Pennsylvania. This first biennial meeting in Columbus set the

stage for many more to come.

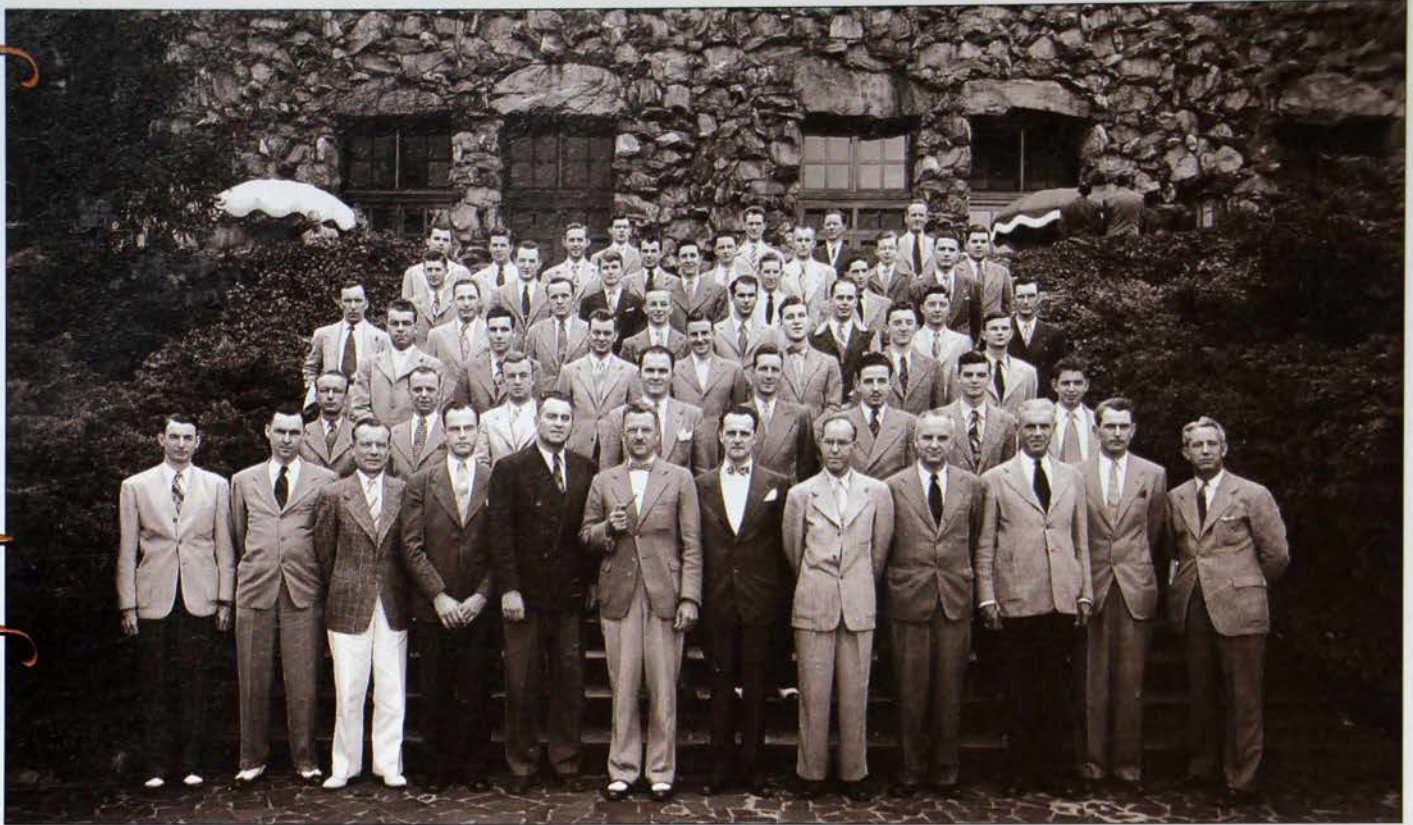
The Fraternity has held Convocations all across North America throughout its history. Once the Fraternity began to expand, it was decided that rotating the location of the Convocation would be logical so as to give every member a reasonable opportunity to attend. Therefore, during the 1960s it was decided that the Convocation would be rotated from the East to the Midwest to the South to the West. Prior to the adoption of this rule, the Fraternity held regular Convocations in the East first at Pittsburgh, PA, in 1910; at Vincennes first in 1926; in the South first at Atlanta, GA, in 1928; and in the West first at Evergreen, CO, in 1940. The Fraternity did not make its way to the West Coast until the members convened in Pasadena, CA, in 1956. Another first occurred this past summer as the Fraternity held its Convocation in Toronto, Canada, the first outside the United States. Regardless of where the Convocation



*Officers at the 1934 Convocation: First Row: Becher W. Hungerford, Grand First Counselor; Byron R. Lewis, Grand Herald; Dr. E. Paul Cook, Retiring Grand Sage; Otto M. Buerger, Grand Sage; Louis L. Moore, Past Grand Sage; Walter H. Lemmond, Jr., Grand Third Counselor. Second Row: Jonathon B. Hillegass, Grand Second Counselor; Ernest B. Mason, Retiring Grand Third Counselor; Harold Jacobsen, Executive Secretary; Russell C. Cooney, Chairman Public Relations Committee.*

History of the Fraternity

# History of the Fraternity



Participants pictured at the 1946 Convocation in Asheville, NC, including Grand Sage Jonathon B. Hillegass (front row with pipe) and Harold Jacobsen (front row, fifth from the left).

occurred, whether it was Seven Springs, PA, in 1978, or Salt Lake City, UT, in 1950, the participants always seemed to have fun.

One of the most memorable Convocations was a special Convocation that occurred September 6, 1947, at the Indianapolis Athletic Club in Indianapolis, IN. During this meeting of the Fraternity, members came together to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of Sigma Pi. There were a number of Past Grand Sages present as well as other honored guests. One of the special guests present at that Convocation was George Martin Patterson, one of the four founding fathers of our great Fraternity. In his address to the delegates, he explained, "I'm sure that neither I nor my co-founders ever thought what little we did back in '97 would grow into what this Fraternity has grown into today, from a membership of four to a membership of 9,000. It is certainly very gratifying to me to have had a small part in its beginning..." Unfortunately, few of the members who attended that Convocation are still with us today, but, those few still remember it like it was yesterday.

Few things about Convocation have changed over the years. Yes, the events are

different, fashion has evolved, and more people are able to attend due to modern transportation, but the anticipation and excitement remain the same. Members come together every other year in a spirit of friendship and brotherhood to chart the direction in which the Fraternity will move. Society has placed a number of challenges in front of the Convocation participants each year, and they have addressed each and every one of them with conscientious

thought much the same way the members of the first Convocation addressed the issues of the day that were pertinent to their situation. The Grand Chapter has convened roughly fifty times throughout the history of the Fraternity. It is important to note that these meetings are the vehicle by which undergraduate and alumni members are able to voice their opinions on issues relating to the Fraternity. Many important decisions have been made during the course of



At the 1966 Convocation, Attendance Awards were given out to members who had attended Convocations for 5, 10, 15, and 20 years. Pictured are (right to left): PGS Becher W. Hungerford, HGS Byron R. Lewis, HGS Curtis G. Shake, Louis Foley, Arthur L. Lewis, PGS Richard G. Lowe, and John v. Murray.

these meetings. For instance, if not for the delegates' vote at the 37th Biennial Convocation in Scottsdale, AZ, our Fraternity may not have been able to expand into Canada. Convocation is also a time where Sigma Pi recognizes the accomplishments of individuals as well as chapters. Each year, the Grand Chapter awards a Grand Sage's Award (previously Grand Council Award) to the chapter(s) that best exemplify a chapter of Sigma Pi. The highest individual award a member of Sigma Pi may receive from the Fraternity is a Founders' Award. This award is presented to alumni who have made an outstanding contribution to a profession, society, or Sigma Pi. A number of highly respected men of Sigma Pi have been recipients of this award.

Each year, members of the Fraternity are amazed by those individuals who have regularly attended Convocations over the years. There are a number of people who have attended well over twenty Convocations. It is the spirit and dedication of people like these that continue to make the Convocation experience memorable. 📷

## CONVOICATIONS OF SIGMA PI

|          |      |                       |     |      |                     |
|----------|------|-----------------------|-----|------|---------------------|
| 1.       | 1909 | Columbus, OH          | 23. | 1956 | Pasadena, CA        |
| Special  | 1909 | Philadelphia, PA      | 24. | 1958 | French Lick, IN     |
| 2.       | 1910 | Pittsburgh, PA        | 25. | 1960 | Williamsburg, VA    |
| 3.       | 1912 | Columbus, OH          | 26. | 1962 | French Lick, IN     |
| 4.       | 1914 | Champaign, IL         | 27. | 1964 | Edgewater, MS       |
| 5.       | 1916 | Ada, OH               | 28. | 1966 | Washington, D.C.    |
| 6 & 7.   | 1920 | Lafayette, IN         | 29. | 1968 | Mackinac Island, MI |
| 8.       | 1922 | Vincennes, IN         | 30. | 1970 | San Francisco, CA   |
| 9.       | 1924 | Pittsburgh, PA        | 31. | 1972 | French Lick, IN     |
| 10.      | 1926 | Vincennes, IN         | 32. | 1974 | Atlanta, GA         |
| 11.      | 1928 | Atlanta, GA           | 33. | 1976 | San Diego, CA       |
| 12.      | 1930 | Cleveland, OH         | 34. | 1978 | Seven Springs, PA   |
| 13 & 14. | 1934 | Philadelphia, PA      | 35. | 1980 | St. Louis, MO       |
| Special  | 1936 | New York, NY          | 36. | 1982 | Louisville, KY      |
| 15 & 16. | 1938 | French Lick, IN       | 37. | 1984 | Scottsdale, AZ      |
| 17.      | 1940 | Evergreen, CO         | 38. | 1986 | Washington, D.C.    |
| 18.      | 1946 | Asheville, NC         | 39. | 1988 | Chicago, IL         |
| Special  | 1947 | Indianapolis, IN      | 40. | 1990 | New Orleans, LA     |
| 19.      | 1948 | Excelsior Springs, MO | 41. | 1992 | Irvine, CA          |
| 20.      | 1950 | Salt Lake City, UT    | 42. | 1994 | Baltimore, MD       |
| 21.      | 1952 | Bedford, PA           | 43. | 1996 | Toronto, ON         |
| 22.      | 1954 | French Lick, IN       | 44. | 1998 | Tampa, FL           |



Participants at the 1984 Convocation in Scottsdale, AZ, are photographed enjoying themselves by the pool. It was at this Convocation that the Fraternity voted to become an international organization.

History of the Fraternity

# History of the Fraternity

## THE PATERSON EPISODE

The following story is an excerpt from an article that was printed in Volume 76, issue Number 4 of *the Emerald* and originally written by Ralph D. Gray for publication in *Traces of Indiana & Midwestern History*.

There are really three key figures in the story I will attempt to summarize. The first, of course, is Robert (single 't') Paterson, who had been christened Robert George (double 't') Patterson. The second was, unwittingly, William Jennings Bryan, the Great Commoner who had an uncommon and enduring influence upon Paterson; it was Bryan whose enrollment in Illinois College and membership in the Sigma Pi Literary Society Paterson wanted so desperately to emulate. The third and final figure in this drama was William Raimond Baird, the self-appointed custodian of American college fraternity history and the founder, first editor, and publisher of the now standard reference book in the field, *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities*, the nineteenth edition of which was published in 1977.

The story begins at the time of Bryan's first of three campaigns for the presidency. Paterson was then, in 1896, just a boy of ten years, but he heard Bryan speak in Bellefontaine, Ohio, his hometown, and never got over his infatuation with the man. He started a Bryan scrapbook, memorized some of his speeches, treasured Bryan's book about the 1896 campaign, *The First Battle*, which his father bought him, and evidently decided to follow in Bryan's footsteps insofar as possible. When he completed his secondary education, at a military academy in Maryland and the classical school in Kokomo, Indiana (where, as it turns out, he had relatives living), Paterson wanted to enroll in Bryan's old college. Consequently, in 1905, he traveled to Jacksonville, Illinois to visit the campus of Illinois College. He made the trip without his parents' knowledge by extending a visit to Kokomo. He arrived in Jacksonville during a college recess, but an understanding janitor agreed to show the young man around, even unlocking the doors to the room on the second floor of Beecher Hall (the oldest college building in Illinois [1829]) and the place where, since 1856, the Sigma Pi Literary Society held its meetings and where Paterson's political and personal idol had honed his oratorical skills.

One of Bryan's recent biographers, Paolo E. Coletta, has described the room in this manner:



Robert George Paterson

"As in a legislature, the chairs are arranged in a semicircle facing the president's desk; between them and the desk is the 'well' in which the speakers hold forth. The president wields the gavel. To one side sits the secretary, who writes the *Minute Book* the names of the speakers and their topics and occasionally comments upon the speakers' abilities and notes the winners of debates.... On the other side a 'critic' sits before an unabridged dictionary."

Immediately upon entering the room, Paterson walked into the 'well' and recited from memory the peroration of Bryan's famous "Cross of Gold" speech, including the statement, "You shall not press down on the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." His audience of one, the old janitor, was quite impressed and urged the young man to enroll in the college, join Sigma Pi, and "become another Bryan." But Paterson's family had other plans, and had, in fact, already arranged for their son to enter Ohio State University in the fall of 1905.

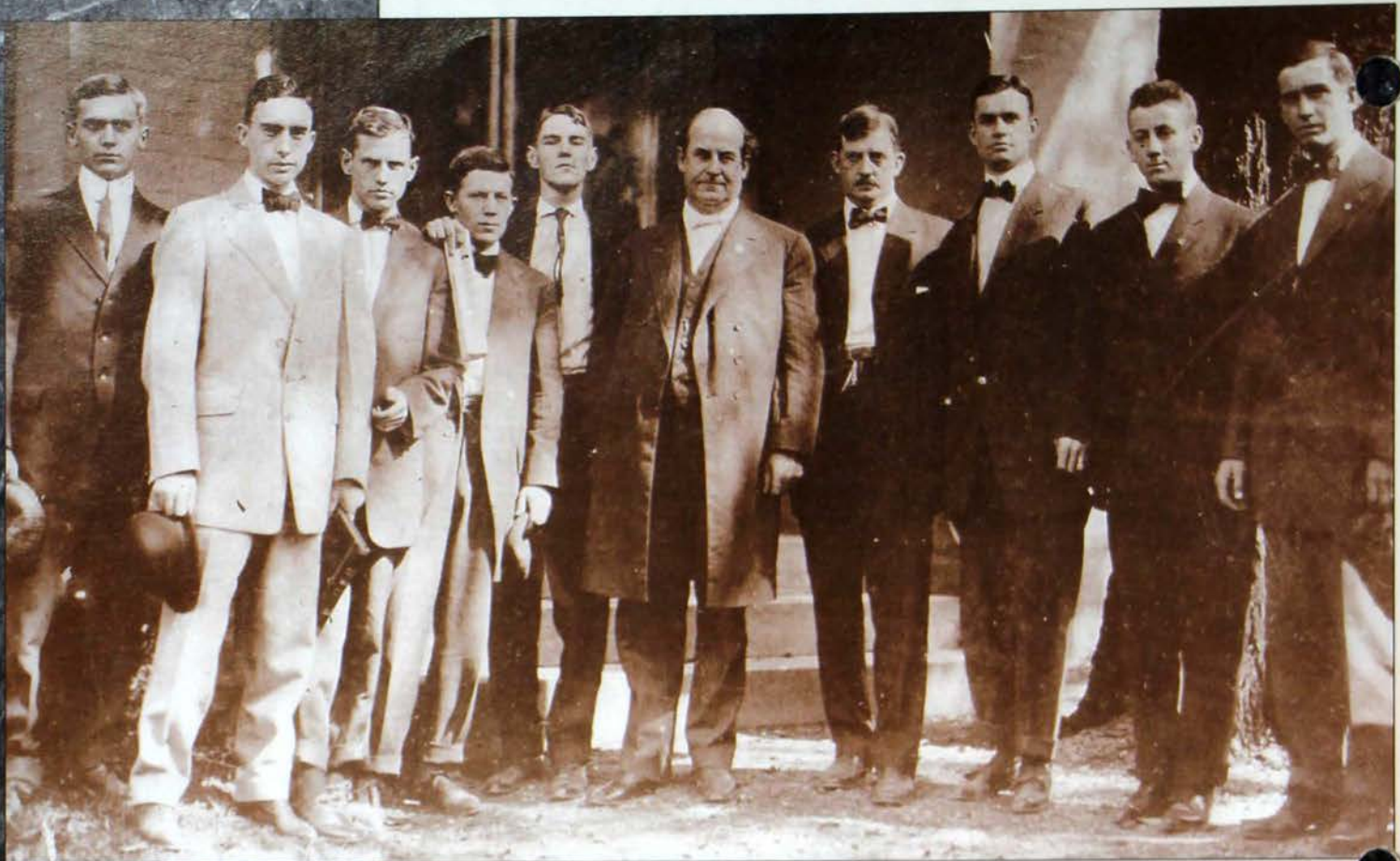
Paterson's residence in Columbus, however, did not end his determination to become a member of Sigma Pi. His first idea was to establish a chapter of the Sigma Pi Literary Society on the Ohio State campus, but this was rejected by the men of Illinois College. The alternative plan was to begin his own Sigma Pi Fraternity. This in itself was not objectionable or even unusual. College fraternities were being established in rapid order

during the early decades of the twentieth century. But the manner in which Paterson proceeded was both strange and unprecedented. Rather than start at the beginning and build something from scratch, he decided to create a long and glorious history for his fraternity. As developed by Paterson over the next few months, the history of his Sigma Pi began in 1752, making it older by twenty-four years than Phi Beta Kappa. It was established at William and Mary College by means of a charter from King George II (the pin that Paterson designed was topped by a crown, later removed), and such people as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Richard Henry Lee, Robert E. Lee, and Jefferson Davis were members. The fraternity became inactive during the American Revolution but was revived in 1801 by Payne Todd, President Madison's stepson. Membership restrictions (Episcopalians only) had kept the group small until recently, but five chapters then existed, including one at Illinois College, and William Jennings Bryan was the fraternity's most famous member. As a final touch, Paterson made himself the national secretary and later became national president. He also wrote a song for the fraternity—stirring words set to the tune of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," which of course was also the music for "God Save the King." At this point Paterson set about looking for good, strong local organizations to bring into his presumably hallowed national group. He wanted, first of all, a group on the campus of a school in the Midwest with a rich historical tradition.

Remembering a conversation in Kokomo with a recent graduate of Vincennes University who had mentioned a strong local group there (Tau Phi Delta, Judge Shake's undergraduate fraternity), Paterson sent a letter to them in December 1906. Unable to recall the group's name, he simply addressed it to the President of the Men's Greek Letter Fraternity at Vincennes University. "We understand," he wrote, that your local fraternity has, "the distinction of being the most representative body of students in your university, and we would like to know if you would be willing to consolidate with us and become a chapter of the Sigma Pi Fraternity." He then remarked upon the antiquity and exclusiveness of Sigma Pi, its lack of progress in recent years, but its desire now, "when more progressive men have come into power," to expand into the western colleges. In my opinion the men of Tau Phi Delta should have been a bit suspicious when they were invited to become Alpha Chapter of Sigma Pi. But Paterson had indicated the venerable old fraternity was

## **TIMELINE OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY, INTERNATIONAL**

**February 26, 1897: Tau Phi Delta formed at Vincennes University.**  
**February 11, 1907: Tau Phi Delta changed its name to Sigma Pi and became Alpha Chapter 1908: Francis L. Lisman elected first Grand Sage May 8, 1909: First Biennial Convocation held in Columbus, OH**  
**November 27, 1909: National Interfraternity Conference formed**  
**1910: Sigma Pi joined the NIC April 10, 1910: The Golden Quest is adopted as the official ritual July 15, 1911: First issue of the Emerald is published 1920: First songbook of Sigma Pi published February 26, 1923: Sigma Pi Foundation incorporated under the laws of Indiana**  
**July 3, 1923: Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana May 1927: Harold Jacobsen named first Executive Secretary November 30, 1927: College Fraternity Editor's Association formed February 23, 1929: Executive Office moved to Elizabeth, NJ July 1931: First issue of the Keryx is published September 16, 1937: James Hauser hired as first, full-time traveling secretary 1945: Byron R. Lewis made first contribution to start the Educational Foundation 1947: 50th Anniversary Convocation held in Indianapolis October 10, 1947: John Robertson, Eta, initiated as the 10,000th member June 5, 1952: Byron R. Lewis Educational Fund officially incorporated under the laws of Indiana April 25, 1962: Stephen Jusick, Beta-Lambda, initiated as the 20,000th member August 30, 1962: Shadowwood Memorial Headquarters officially dedicated July 1, 1963: Executive Office of Sigma Pi moved to Shadowwood 1964: Sigma Pi merges with Delta Kappa Fraternity September 14, 1969: Robert Bender, Gamma-Xi, initiated as the 30,000th member 1972: Judge Curtis G. Shake awarded the NIC Silver Medal 1974: PGS William J. Cutbirth elected NIC president September 4, 1977: Gregory T. Buchholz, Beta, initiated as the 40,000th member August 1984: Sigma Pi became international with expansion into Canada 1984: Harold Jacobsen awarded the NIC Gold Medal November 9, 1985: Dennis A. Edwards, Zeta-Nu, initiated as the 50,000th member June 5, 1987: Harold Jacobsen awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Fraternity Executives Association November 30, 1990: Peter M. Steigerwald, Gamma-Nu, initiated as the 60,000th member April 30, 1996: Jason Smith, Eta-Sigma, initiated as the 70,000th member August 1996: First ever Convocation held outside the United States February 26, 1997: SIGMA PI FRATERNITY, INTERNATIONAL, CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL!**



*William Jennings Bryan (center) visits Gamma Chapter on September 27, 1908. Robert Paterson is pictured to Bryan's right.*

## History of the Fraternity

being reorganized, so perhaps they believed the Alpha designation had become vacant and was theirs if they acted promptly.

It just so happened that the men of the Vincennes local were just beginning to look for a national affiliation, and they readily accepted Paterson's invitation, as did other local groups on campuses in Ohio and Illinois. Paterson soon elevated himself to the national presidency and announced that the twenty-first national congress of Sigma Pi Fraternity would convene in Vincennes in May 1908. Actually, of course, this was the first gathering of Paterson's Sigma Pi membership, an affair to which William Jennings Bryan was invited as featured speaker. Paterson, having crashed a luncheon in Bryan's honor in Columbus, Ohio, had extended this invitation personally in February, an event which Paterson described in loving detail to the men of Alpha Chapter in an eight-page letter sent to them later in the month. He noted that Bryan had regretfully declined, citing the pressure of his schedule, but that he sent his best wishes to his "brothers." The Vincennes congress went on as planned.

Apart from Paterson himself, who, according to

reports, presided "with dignity and efficiency," most of those who attended the gathering were members and alumni of Alpha Chapter, but the local impression was positive. Paterson was invited by the president of Vincennes University to speak to the entire student body, and the man whose college standing never advanced beyond that of a second-quarter freshman carried it off with aplomb. He emphasized the obligation of every student to his or her alma mater and the importance of good citizenship in the larger community. These remarks, it has been pointed out, were "strangely similar to the address William Jennings Bryan made to the students of Illinois College during the campaign of 1896."

It was upon this occasion that Judge Shake, a Tau Phi Delta alumnus then enrolled in law school in Bloomington, first met Paterson, and that two new chapters on major university campuses were added to the fraternity. And it was the publicity surrounding these events that caused Paterson's elaborate hoax to unravel.

One of the chapters installed in 1908 was the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana. When a news report of the event carried a summa-

ry of Paterson's fanciful history of Sigma Pi, it was promptly challenged in a letter to the *Daily Illini* from someone who signed himself "G. Reek." This writer ridiculed the historical claims, stating that fraternities at William and Mary in 1752 were as plentiful "as snakes in Ireland." Even more serious was the challenge posed by William Raimond Baird, who rejected the history supplied by Paterson when he offered it for the listing in *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities*. In both cases Paterson tried to brazen it out. After all, the *World Almanac* for 1909 had carried the fraternity's history just as Paterson had written it. But Baird resisted and sought verification from Paterson, which proved unsatisfactory. Soon afterwards Baird published his correspondence with Paterson in a fraternity magazine he edited, Beta Theta Pi, and the exposure was complete.

Consequently, before the year was out, Paterson was expelled from Sigma Pi Fraternity, and his name was completely expunged from its history for more than sixty years. Paterson necessarily went on to other pursuits, including the writing of two novels, while his fraternity continued to grow and eventually became one of the major college fraternities in America. It now has 169 chapters and 57,000 initiates. Vincennes University is recognized as the birthplace of the fraternity, where Shadowwood, the national headquarters, is located. The date of Tau Phi Delta's establishment (1897) is used as the date of founding. Within the last decade the official history of the fraternity has incorporated the "Paterson Episode" to explain how the name of Sigma Pi was selected, but it still denies to Paterson a major role in the formation of the fraternity itself. Prior to this, however, all that was said about the name change and, by implication, Paterson's role in it were these two enigmatic sentences from *The Sigma Pi Book: A History of the Fraternity* (1923): "The circumstances that led to the selection of Sigma Pi and the discarding of that of Tau Phi Delta were most unusual and are probably unprecedented in the annals of fraternity affairs. They are, however, too complicated and lengthy for discussion in this volume." It is rather curious, too, that the new editions of *Baird's Manual* still ignore Robert Paterson, although they include long sections on the history of Vincennes University.

This is not quite the end of the story of the Paterson episode in Sigma Pi history. The membership had a scare in 1915 when a book on fraternities was published. Entitled *Leading Greeks*, it contained a full write-up on Robert Paterson as the founder of Sigma Pi, and the chilling information that he had a manuscript ready for publication dealing with the history of the fraternity. The "Sigs" met this crisis by sending a close former associate, not the judge, to call

on Paterson. As Judge Shake recounted the story to Dr. Gibson, the two men met in a bar in Atlanta and "spent the evening talking and drinking. When the evening was over, Paterson discovered that he had lost the manuscript; actually, it had been stolen."

By this time, too, Paterson had lost something else, his original name, by changing it slightly, but permanently, from Robert George Patterson to Robert Paterson, and he was well on his way with new careers in journalism, publishing, and civic affairs. He worked on papers in Delaware, North Dakota, and Oklahoma before becoming a war correspondent in France during the early part of World War I. Later he joined a tank corps in the United States Army and served in France, after which he remained active in veterans' affairs. As we know, he tried his hand at writing novels that were really not novels in the 1930s and then moved on to become assistant to publisher and physical culturalist Bernarr McFadden and to be active in civic affairs in the New York City area. For a time he served on the Mayor's Committee to Welcome Distinguished Guests to New York City (a position he must have relished) and was twice elected commander of the American Legion's New York City post. He then began an evidently successful career as a popular lecturer and pamphlet author. He maintained an interest from a distance in the affairs of Sigma Pi, sometimes going to the New York Public Library to read the fraternity magazine, *The Emerald* which Judge Shake edited at one time, but his sole personal link with Sigma Pi over the decades was an occasional meeting with Judge Shake when the judge happened to be in New York City on business. Their last meeting came in the spring of 1960, when the judge was there while working on a railroad arbitration case. At that time, Judge Shake informed Paterson that he, the judge, was scheduled to speak at the fraternity's twenty-fifth biennial convention in September on its early history, and he invited Paterson to share the platform and the speaking time with him and to reveal for the first time his own account of the events of 1906, 1907, and 1908. Paterson eagerly accepted but a "severe street accident"—no details known—prevented his appearance. Judge Shake's next information about Paterson was the news of his death at a veterans' hospital in New York in October 1965.

It is important to note that this story was only allowed to resurface roughly thirty years ago. Sigma Pi Fraternity, International does, in fact, recognize its founding as being at Vincennes University on February 26, 1897. However, this story, as strange and twisted as it may seem, played a definite role in the early development of the Fraternity. ❏

*The membership had a scare in 1915 when a book on fraternities was published. Entitled **Leading Greeks**, it contained a full write-up on Robert Paterson as the founder of Sigma Pi, and the chilling information that he had a manuscript ready for publication dealing with the history of the fraternity*



# SHADOWWOOD MEMORIAL HEADQUARTERS

*The plaque that hangs on the outside of the headquarters to commemorate its dedication.*

Landmarks

Every organization can point to one or two events in its history that are monumental. Previous to 1962, Harold Jacobsen conducted the business of the Fraternity, first in his own home in Roselle, NJ, then in an office in Elizabeth, NJ. For years, a number of alumni had expressed a strong desire to relocate the Executive Office of the Fraternity to Vincennes, the birthplace of the Fraternity. During the late 1950's and early 1960's, a number of events made this move possible.

Colonel Eugene C. Wharf was a leading citizen of Vincennes and a strong supporter of Vincennes University. A veteran of the Spanish-American War, the Colonel chose to settle in Vincennes with his wife, Stella, and their two sons. The Wharf Estate is one of

the most recognizable landmarks in the Palmyra Township of Knox County, located five miles east of Vincennes. It was originally built in 1916 overlooking the old Vincennes to Louisville Turnpike on a thirteen acre plot of land purchased from the family of Founding Father George Martin Patterson. The estate is heavily timbered and sits on the highest point in Knox County. The house itself is a tribute to early twentieth century architecture and was built under the direct supervision of the Colonel himself. He spared no expense in constructing his dream home: the outside is constructed of solid brick and concrete with a tile roof and copper guttering, and the inside boasts hand carved wood fixtures, spacious living quarters, and a furnished attic which was originally intended to be a



*Guests of the Fraternity at the dedication of Shadowwood as the memorial headquarters of the Fraternity.*





*Shadowwood Memorial  
Headquarters as seen today.*

ballroom. During the later years of his life, he expressed a desire to bequeath his palatial country estate, the product of his blood, sweat, and tears, to the university.

The Colonel passed away in 1956 before he had the opportunity to include his intentions to leave the estate to the university in his will. Mrs. Wharf, after discussions with the other members of the immediate family, decided to honor the Colonel's wishes and transfer title of the property to Vincennes University. On May 14, 1957, Mrs. Wharf, being the sole heir of her husband, entered into an agreement with the university to transfer title of the property with the understanding that it would be used for educational purposes.

Since the university is nearly ten miles from Shadowwood, it was impractical to develop the estate as a prominent educational fixture. The university did use the mansion for a few years to house female students who were attending the university. About the same time all of this was transpiring, Judge Curtis G. Shake, honorary Grand Sage and TΦΔ alumnus, was serving as president of the Vincennes University Board of Trustees. He knew there was a deep interest in moving the headquarters of the Fraternity from Elizabeth Vincennes. Wielding a tremendous amount of influence, Judge Shake gained the attention of the other board members and convinced them that Shadowwood

provided the ideal location for the headquarters of the Fraternity. The trustees of the university, however, did not want to make the Wharf estate available to Sigma Pi without first notifying Mrs. Wharf. Upon learning of what they proposed to do, she wrote Judge Shake as follows:

*Dear Judge Shake:*

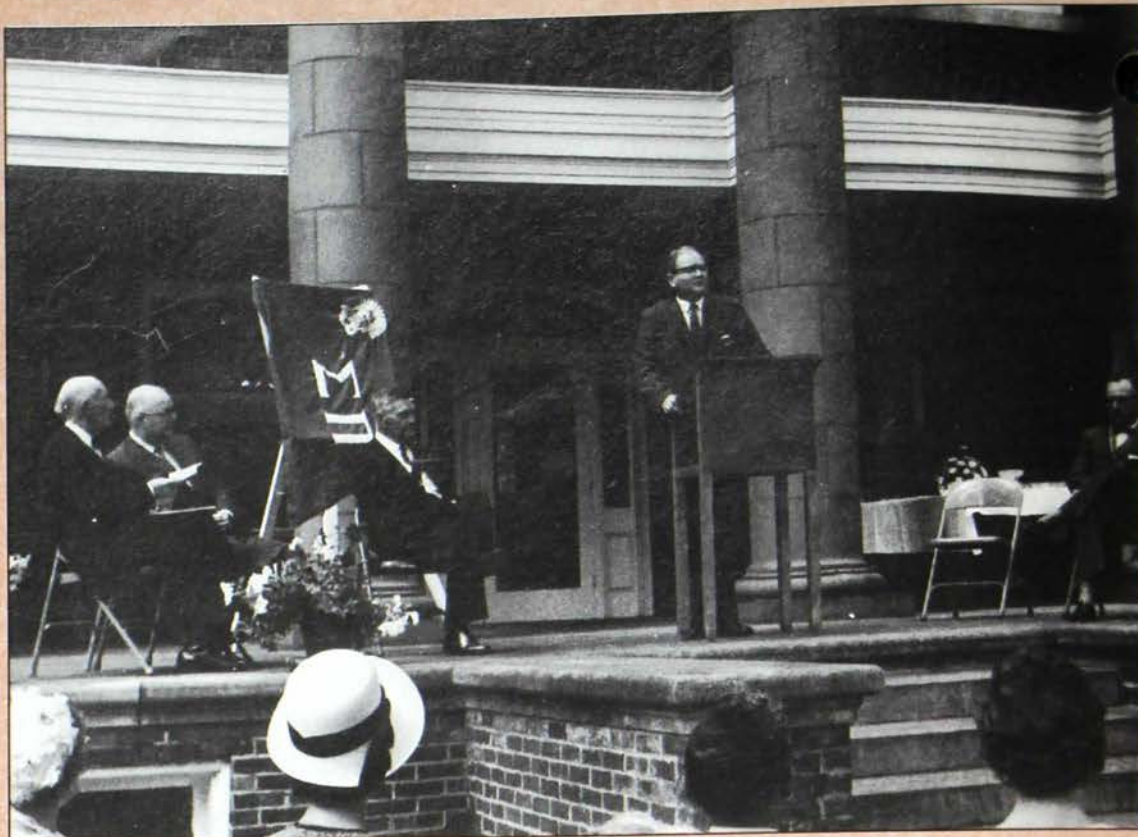
*I thank you for advising me of the plan for the Sigma-Pi Fraternity of the United States to take over from Vincennes University Shadowwood and the 13-acre tract of land on which it is located, for use as the permanent central office of the fraternity.*

*This should provide for the dignified utilization of the property and insure its proper maintenance during the years to come. I feel certain that Col. Wharf would be most happy with this disposition of the beautiful home that he loved so much, and the plan has my hearty approval.*

*My sons Joe and John, join me in inviting Sigma-Pi to return to old Vincennes, the place of its birth, and in extending best wishes for the continued growth and development of Vincennes University.*

*Sincerely,  
Stella F. Wharf*

*Landmarks*



*Guests of the Fraternity at the dedication of the Byron R. Lewis Suite*

With the help of Judge Shake, an agreement was completed on August 5, 1961, that allowed for the Fraternity to occupy the Wharf Estate with the stipulation that if the Fraternity ceased to use the premises as the headquarters of the Fraternity, title of the property would revert back to the university.

The dedication of Shadowwood took place on August 30, 1962, in conjunction with the 26th Biennial Convocation of the Fraternity being held in French Lick, IN. Mrs. Wharf took part in the dedication ceremonies with one of her sons, John. As a memorial to the Colonel, the Grand Chapter had engraved and mounted an illuminated scroll which was unveiled by Mrs. Wharf with the assistance of her son. The inscription reads:

This Is  
**SHADOWWOOD**

Formerly the Country Home of

**COLONEL EUGENE C. WHARF**  
(1876-1956)

Fittingly, it was Judge Shake who presided over the dedication ceremony as it was he who was most responsible for this remarkable event. He agreed to preside over the ceremonies only if the "formalities



*Memorabilia that can be seen inside Shadowwood. Included in this picture are the gavel and robe Judge Shake used to preside over the Military Tribunal for the Nazi industrialists after World War II.*

would be kept to a minimum, inasmuch as he and all who were acquainted with 'Shadowwood' as a home wanted the occasion to be friendly and informal, as well as memorable and inspiring." During the small ceremony, a bronze plaque in commemoration of the dedication ceremonies was unveiled by Patty Patterson and Marion Patterson, daughters of Founding Father George Martin Patterson, who were also in attendance.

The plaque, which is now mounted on the outside on mansion, reads:

## THE SIGMA PI FRATERNITY

of the United States

FOUNDED AT VINCENNES  
UNIVERSITY

February 26, 1897

by

Rolin Rosco James, 1879-1953

William Raper Kennedy, 1877-1944

James Thompson Kingsbury, 1877-1950

George Martin Patterson, 1877-1960

*"to the end that school fellowship  
might be cultivated, general knowledge  
extended, the cause of education  
advanced, literary culture promoted,  
and a high degree of school excellence  
maintained"*

THIS BUILDING AND THE SURROUNDING  
AREA DEDICATED BY  
THE 1962 BIENNIAL CONVOCATION  
OF THE FRATERNITY  
AS A MEMORIAL TO ITS FOUNDERS  
AND FOR USE AS ITS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE, AUGUST 30, 1962

HONOR SIT QUIBUS  
HONOR DEBETUR



*The Byron R. Lewis Suite  
as seen in the 1970s.*

Wharf Mansion is haunted. Past and present members of the staff attest to this through stories of strange experiences, doors mysteriously closing, items disappearing from desks, flashing lights, and strange noises. It is rumored that the spirit of Colonel Wharf is the one that resides at Shadowwood. It is said that the Colonel's love for his old home is what keeps his spirit in the building. Whatever it may be, the rumors of Shadowwood being haunted only add to the storied history of the building.

Thirty-five years after the move from New Jersey, the Executive Office still calls Shadowwood home. The mansion has survived the years and been host to numerous men and women who have served the Fraternity on its professional staff. Through the generous donations of a numerous alumni, the Fraternity has been able to create a museum housing artifacts of the Fraternity. One can browse through the museum and view items Judge Shake donated from his days on the bench including the gavel he used during the US Military Tribunal at Nuremburg, Germany, memorabilia from Walter Schirra's voyage on Mercury 7, items donated by members who have pursued careers in professional sports, old manuscripts of the Fraternity ritual, pictures of the litany of men who have served the Fraternity as Grand Sage, jewelry signifying different eras of the Fraternity, books written by and about Fraternity members, as well as the original Constitution of Tau Phi Delta, among other things.

If you stroll about the densely shaded grounds, you may notice the benches that have been donated to the Executive Office over the years. Chapters have taken the opportunity to leave their mark on the grounds by establishing their own memorial so that members of the chapter may view it for years to come. Other memorials decorate the grounds celebrating the accomplishments of members, including one recognizing the contributions of Judge Shake.

People are the entity that identify Sigma Pi. Through our members' dedication and hard work, our Fraternity has grown into a strong organization. It is because of those people and the memories they helped to create that Shadowwood Memorial Headquarters is a treasure of which we should all be proud. 🏠

*Landmarks*

This ceremony was the consummation of long felt desires to establish the Executive Office of the Fraternity in historic Vincennes, and, with all of the guests that were present, was the proper beginning to a new era for the Fraternity.

Over the years, a number of events have added to the lore of Shadowwood. For example, in 1964, the main wing of Shadowwood was dedicated to recognize the contributions of Honorary Grand Sage and Past Grand Herald Byron R. Lewis. At that time, an oil portrait of Brother Lewis was unveiled and now hangs over the fireplace in the Conference Room. Renovations have also been made to improve its appearance and functionality. Through the contributions of numerous, generous alumni, the attic was refurbished so that a ritual room could be added. Many chapters have taken advantage of the opportunity to initiate their new members at the headquarters.

Shadowwood has gained notoriety around the State of Indiana for its striking beauty. However, the old mansion has also gained recognition for another reason. It has been documented in books that the old

A Registered Historic Landmark:

# Rose Hill

Reprinted from  
*THE EMERALD*  
Volume 77, Number 2

Across the road from Shadowwood, the International Headquarters of Sigma Pi Fraternity, stands Rose Hill, the birthplace and life-long home of George Martin Patterson, one of the four founders of the Fraternity.

Shadowwood and Rose Hill are among the most imposing and interesting landmarks of a community noted for its rich history. Between them runs the old Vincennes and Louisville turnpike, the first man-made highway in the state which was laid out at the direction of General William Henry Harrison in 1804, while he was serving as the first Governor of Indiana Territory. Once an important and heavily traveled stage coach route, it is now merely a quiet county road winding through a beautiful countryside.



Landmarks

The land on which Rose Hill stands was originally granted to a Frenchman by the name of Jean Baptiste St. Aubin, who subsequently assigned his rights to Peyton Short of Woodford County, Ky. In 1807 Short sold the property to Martin Rose, the great grandfather of George Martin Patterson. On a high point overlooking the countryside Mr. Rose built for himself a simple log cabin, one of the earliest homes in the community. This site was selected because of its proximity to a natural spring providing an inexhaustible supply of pure, cold water. This spring still provides water for the Patterson home. Another spring on the same farm provided the water supply for Shadowwood before the national headquarters began using city water.

During the war of 1812, while the soldiers stationed at the military post located in Vincennes, Indiana were away, the settlers of the surrounding area found themselves exposed to the dangers of Indian depredations. To protect themselves from these dangers, a number of neighborhood forts were established. One of these was

built around the spring on the Martin Rose farm and was named Fort Rose.

In 1827 Mr. Rose replaced his log cabin with a fine two-story house, built of handmade brick and hewn timbers produced on his own farm. After nearly a century and a half of continuous occupancy by succeeding generations of the same pioneer family, this fine old home is in sound condition, largely due to the loving care bestowed on it by George M. Patterson.

On the death of Martin Rose in 1828, Rose Hill descended to his daughter, Melinda, and her young husband, Henry K. Wise, a very industrious man. He established a tanyard and leather shop near the natural spring on his farm for the manufacture of saddles.

For many years he supplied saddles for the U.S. Army and the story is told that on one occasion he was offered, but declined, a deed to a 100-acre tract of land at Fort Dearborn, in what is now the loop district of Chicago, in payment for a few dozen saddles.

Before and during the period of the Civil War the community surrounding Shadowwood and Rose Hill was an extremely tense one. Many of the inhabitants were of New England extraction and strongly opposed to slavery. Among these was Henry K. Wise, whose family had come from Pennsylvania, and he was a confirmed "abolitionist." As a consequence, his home, Rose Hill, became a recognized station of the Underground Railroad, where fugitive slaves from the South were concealed, fed, and assisted on their way to Canada and freedom. According to one local historian, among those harbored at Rose Hill by Wise was Eliza, the heroine of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN*, who crossed the Ohio River on the floating ice while pursued by ferocious bloodhounds on her way north to freedom. While the story cannot be historically confirmed, it does add an aura to the legends that cluster about Rose Hill.

Many citizens of the same area had migrated from Virginia and the Carolinas and they were sympathetic toward the Southern States. For some time, the people established and maintained an active unit of the Knights of the Golden Circle, but were required to carry on their activities in strict secrecy. One of the favorite meeting places for the members of this group was in the dark recesses of the dense forest where Shadowwood now stands. This resulted in that spot coming to be known in the community as "Rebel Hill" until the site was acquired by Col. Eugene C. Wharf for his future home.

Col. Wharf was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and intensely patriotic. During the many years of

his residence at Shadowwood it was his practice to personally raise the American flag in front of the mansion each morning at sunrise and to lower it at sunset. He resented having the site of his fine home known by a name of such a disloyal implication as "Rebel Hill," and adopted the name of Shadowwood for his estate and had it duly recorded at the county courthouse.

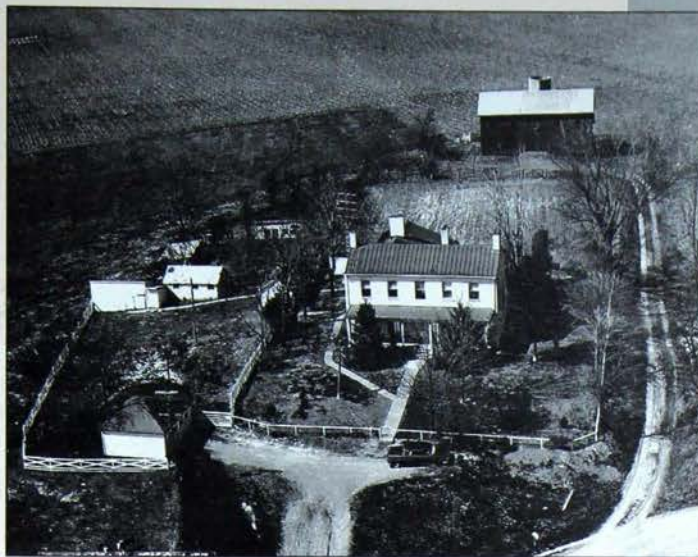
On the death of Melinda and Henry K. Wise, Rose Hill became the property of their daughter Nancy, who married Robert B. Patterson, and in due time they became the parents of George Martin Patterson.

There is an interesting tradition in the Patterson family. It seems that one of the ancestors migrated to Vincennes from the state of Maryland. This ancestor was closely related to William Patterson, a prominent financier of Baltimore, and he was the father of a beautiful and talented daughter, Elizabeth.

William Patterson employed one Christopher Harrison, a young artist and recent graduate of St. John's College at Annapolis, as his confidential clerk and tutor for Elizabeth. Soon "Chris and Betsy," as the young couple were known by their many friends, fell deeply in love, but Betsy's father flatly refused to give his consent to their marriage. His wife was deeply wounded, Harrison resigned his position and migrated to the western frontier. There he purchased a beautiful tract of wooded land in the Indiana Territory overlooking the Ohio River, where Hanover College now stands. Harrison built for himself a log cabin and adopted the life of a hermit.

He spent his time hunting, fishing, reading and painting, though he did take an active interest in politics. When Indiana became a state in 1816, Christopher Harrison became its first lieutenant governor. He never married and in his later years returned to his native Maryland where he died at the age of eighty-eight, in 1863, a lonely though highly respected old man.

The story of Elizabeth Patterson is equally as tragic and certainly more dramatic. About the year 1806, Baltimore was visited by Jerome Bonaparte, a younger brother of the great Napoleon. Jerome met and courted Elizabeth, and on August 12, 1807 they were married. The young bride was taken to Paris by her husband, but Napoleon had different plans for his brother and disapproved of the marriage. Over their protest and notwithstanding the unsuccessful intercession of his Holiness, the Pope, on their behalf, the marriage was annulled and soon after Jerome became the husband of Princess Sophia and King of Wurtemberg. Meanwhile, Elizabeth had given birth to a son who was named Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte. The young mother returned to Baltimore with her son, and her later grandson, Charles Joseph Bonaparte, became a distinguished



American lawyer and the Attorney General of the United States from 1906 to 1909, during the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt.

A tradition persists, that sometime after her return to America, Elizabeth visited her Patterson relatives at Vincennes and was royally entertained at Rose Hill. If this story is true, one can surmise that perhaps she made this arduous trip to Indiana in the hope of again making contact with her first sweetheart, Christopher Harrison.

But to return to the story of "Rose Hill" and Sigma Pi, it was at Vincennes University in the year 1896, that the four founding members of Sigma Pi were first drawn together. Their intimate friendship that culminated in the organization of the Fraternity on February 26, 1897, was further cemented by many weekends spent at Rose Hill.

George M. Patterson was proud of his home and of his part in the establishment of our Fraternity. He was an honored guest at six of our national convocations; at Vincennes in 1922 and 1925, Pittsburgh in 1924, Indianapolis in 1947, and at French Lick in 1938 and 1954. On April 7, 1960, George Patterson passed on to the Adytum on High at the age of 82. He was survived by two daughters, Marion and Martha.

*On August 14, 1976, Martha and Marion were named official hosts of Shadowwood Memorial Headquarters at a biennial cookout. Martha "Patty" Patterson married Dean W. Parks on February 17, 1945 and they resided in Columbia, MO. She began a teaching career in Vincennes public schools and later taught childhood education at Stephens College in Columbia, MO. Mrs. Parks passed away at the age of 62 following a long illness.*

*Marion Patterson Beard was world renown for her works of art. She was educated at Indiana State University and Syracuse University. Marion was also on the teaching staff at Vincennes University. She resided at Rose Hill until her death on December 29, 1988. Marion bequeathed Rose Hill to the Fraternity, along with many antiques of the family.*



# A SIGMA PI LEGEND

This article was first printed in the Spring 1993 edition of *the Emerald* at the time of Harold Jacobsen's passing.

**Harold Jacobsen** was born in New York City on October 14, 1899, to John and Louise (Krause) Jacobsen. He received his elementary and high school education in Bayonne, New Jersey and in the fall of 1918, he enrolled at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He pledged Sigma Pi on October 1st of that year. Having run out of money, Jake returned to New Jersey where he worked for Bayonne Steel and the International Motor Company. In 1921 he returned to Kenyon and was initiated on June 20, 1921. While an active, Jake served Lambda Chapter as Herald, Third Counselor and two years as Sage until he graduated in 1924. He was also very active on campus as Kenyon Assembly President, Football Manager, Vice-President of the Science Club and a member of the Commons Committee, the Executive Council and the Choir.

Jake's fondest memories fall back to his undergraduate days: "At Kenyon, each fraternity had its own lodge or meeting place off campus. Lambda's lodge was far from being elaborate; in fact we met in the attic of the secretary of the college president. The rafters were covered with black cheesecloth. The weekly meetings were serious and beneficial to the brothers in many ways, especially on critique nights when one learned from his brothers not only his good points, but also his faults and what he had to do to improve himself. After meetings, the brothers locked arms and in a close formation four abreast, marching slowly through town and down the campus middle path singing college and fraternity songs — a tremendous joy, especially on clear, starry nights."

Upon graduation, Jake moved back to New Jersey and was employed by the International Motor Company of New York City as well as the Pratt Institute in



Brooklyn. While establishing his career, Jake organized and was first President of the New York City Alumni Club of Sigma Pi which was chartered on December 30, 1926.

At the 10th Biennial Convocation in Vincennes, Indiana, the report of the Central Office Committee, appointed at the previous convocation in Pittsburgh, recommended that the Grand Council move forward and hire a full-time Executive Secretary.

On May 16, 1927, in Tiffin, Ohio, Grand Sage Herman S. Sidener, (A, **Kenyon '21**), and Foundation Secretary Louis H. Schrieber, (Φ, **Illinois '22**), met with Harold Jacobsen and instructed the newly hired executive secretary as to the work of the Grand Chapter. Past Grand Sage Sidener later wrote in recollection of the event, "...that you began your long and distinguished service as head of the Executive Office during my own Grand Sageship is, and always will be, a source of personal pride and joy."

As documented in the *Sigma Pi Manual*, "The first office was established in the home of Brother Jacobsen in Roselle, NJ. To many, it meant the attainment of a great objective, because it centralized the

business of the Grand Chapter, and relieved the Grand Officers of all the detail and routine work which is necessary in any smooth-running organization."

The first task of the Executive Secretary was to bring the records of the Fraternity together, eliminate work that had been duplicated by officers in different parts of the country, and establish a system for the efficient handling of all Grand Chapter business. In some instances it required several years before all the records could be transferred and compiled at the Executive Office.

Starting with only a file, a typewriter, and a small addressograph machine, the office grew so rapidly that within less than five months it was moved to the "movie building" in Roselle, and then on February 23, 1929, to Elizabeth, NJ.

During the lean years of the Great Depression, Jake held the Fraternity together and chartered six new chapters within his first 10 years. In 1930, he married Hazel C. Kempf and later had a daughter, Lynne. At the same time he became one of the charter members of the College Fraternity Secretaries Association (later named the Fraternity Executives Association) and in 1936 was elected its sixth president. This event led to Jake becoming the first member of the Fraternity to appear on the cover of the *Emerald* in February 1937. That same year, a special committee appointed by Grand Sage Otto M. Buerger, (M, **Cornell '21**), recommended the establishment of the office of Traveling Secretary and in September 1937, James H. Hauser, (K, **Temple '37**), became the first to hold that office.

Jake and the Fraternity were soon to face their most challenging dilemma, with the outbreak of World War II. While college undergraduates were being recruited into the armed services, 17 chapters closed their doors and only 10 remained open by war's end. Money was very tight during this peri-

od. Sigma Pi owes its existence today to the perseverance and personal sacrifice of Harold Jacobsen and members of the Grand Council.

By the fall of 1945, however, swelling enrollment reached record heights at many colleges and universities as veterans returned to campuses. Sigma Pi took advantage of this situation to increase its chapter roll, and by 1950 there were 46 active chapters of the Fraternity. In 1947 Sigma Pi celebrated this success during a special golden anniversary celebration of the Fraternity in Indianapolis.

In 1957, another special celebration occurred, commemorating Jake's 30th anniversary as Executive Director. Grand Sage Alexander E. Wilson, Jr. (Ψ, **Emory '30**), presented Jake with a jeweled badge and a beautifully-bound collection of letters and greetings from past and present Grand Officers, Province Archons, and chapters. It was inscribed, "To Harold Jacobsen, Mr. Sigma Pi, in appreciation for 30 years of loyal service to Sigma Pi Fraternity."

In 1961 when Louis Foley retired as *Emerald* Editor, Jake once again took the helm as he had before, from 1944-45, to serve as Editor. The following year, the Grand Chapter paid a fitting tribute to Jake at the 1962 Convocation in French Lick, IN. According to the Fall 1962 *Emerald*, "One of the surprises of the evening, at least for Executive Director Jacobsen, was the announcement that the convocation had conferred upon him the title of Honorary Grand Sage. In recognition thereof, William J. Cutbirth presented to 'Jake' a mahogany plaque mounted with a Sigma Pi crest, wreath and plate on which was engraved *Presented to Harold Jacobsen upon his appointment as Honorary Grand Sage in appreciation of 35 years of loyal service to Sigma Pi Fraternity.*" Harold Jacobsen became only the second member of Sigma Pi to receive such an honor, the first being Byron R. Lewis.

In 1963, as Jake entered his 36th year of dedicated and loyal service to Sigma Pi, the inevitable decision was made. Harold Jacobsen had decided to step down as Executive Director of Sigma Pi Fraternity. That same year the Executive Office was moved from Elizabeth, NJ to its present location in Vincennes, Indiana and James L. Hills, (AX, **Maryland '54**), succeeded

## Executive Directors and successors of Harold Jacobsen:



James L. Hills  
Maryland '54  
1963-1971



William C. Marrs  
Troy State '74  
1978-1980



E. Andrew Morris  
Murry State '70  
1980-1990



D. Dean Crook  
Eastern Illinois '59  
1971-1978 1991-1994

him as Executive Secretary. Jake remained in New Jersey as Editor and Business Manager of the *Emerald* and Secretary/Treasurer of the Sigma Pi Foundation and Byron R. Lewis Educational Fund. At the same time of his resignation as Executive Director, he was elected President of the College Fraternity Editor's Association (CFEA).

By 1965, after having served Sigma Pi through the Great Depression and two world wars, Harold Jacobsen closed the doors of the New Jersey office of Sigma Pi and the responsibility of the *Emerald* was transferred to Vincennes. In a fitting tribute that year, Past Grand Fourth Counselor and Past *Emerald* Editor Louis Foley, **Ohio '15**, wrote an article in the *Emerald* entitled "The House That Jake Built." Additionally, several Past Grand Sages saluted "Mr. Sigma Pi." They included: Herman S. Sidener (1926-30), Jonathan B. Hillegass (1938-46), Becher W. Hungerford (1946-50), William A. Smith (1950-52), Stedman Gould (1954-56), Alexander E. Wilson, Jr. (1956-58) and William J. Cutbirth (1960-62).

In 1968, D. Dean Crook, (BF, **Eastern Illinois '59**), succeeded Jake as Secretary-Treasurer of the Sigma Pi Foundation when its offices were moved to Vincennes. Additionally, Brother Crook succeeded Jake as Secretary/Treasurer of the Byron R. Lewis Educational Fund in 1972 while serving as the Fraternity's third Executive Secretary.

In 1972 at the Convocation in French Lick, Indiana, Jake received the highest award bestowed to an alumnus, the Founders' Award. That same year, Jake and his wife Hazel moved to Colorado Springs, CO. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Jacobsen fell ill and passed away. Two years later he married Elisabeth Jenner. At the 1974 Convocation in Atlanta, Brother Jacobsen was elected the fourth president of the Byron R. Lewis Educational Fund; a position he held until 1986. He remained a trustee of the fund until 1992 when poor health got the best of him.

One of the crowning moments of Jake's fraternal career came in 1984 when he received the National Interfraternity Conference's (NIC) Gold Medal for his lifetime achievements in the progress of Sigma Pi and the interfraternal movement. Jake

shared the stage that night with another NIC Gold Medal recipient, President Ronald Reagan, Tau Kappa Epsilon.

On Monday, January 11, 1993, Harold Jacobsen, Mr. Sigma Pi, passed quietly to the Adytum on High ending an era in the progress and development of his life long cause—SIGMA PI FRATERNITY.

Harold Jacobsen came to be known as "Mr. Sigma Pi," not just because of his love for the Fraternity, but because he was Sigma Pi. Jake set the standard for others to follow. As Past Grand Sage Jonathan Hillegass, (N, **Franklin and Marshall '20**), said at Jake's retirement, "May the standards he set for our brotherhood never be permitted to be lowered." In testament to Jake's long-lasting impression on Sigma Pi, Past Grand Sage Becher Hungerford, (AB, **Michigan '25**), went on to say, "...never have so many owed so much to one man."

Harold Jacobsen, our Honorary Grand Sage, devoted himself wholeheartedly to the glorious task of the Golden Quest of Sigma Pi Fraternity. We, his modern followers, should do likewise. 🙏

# THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

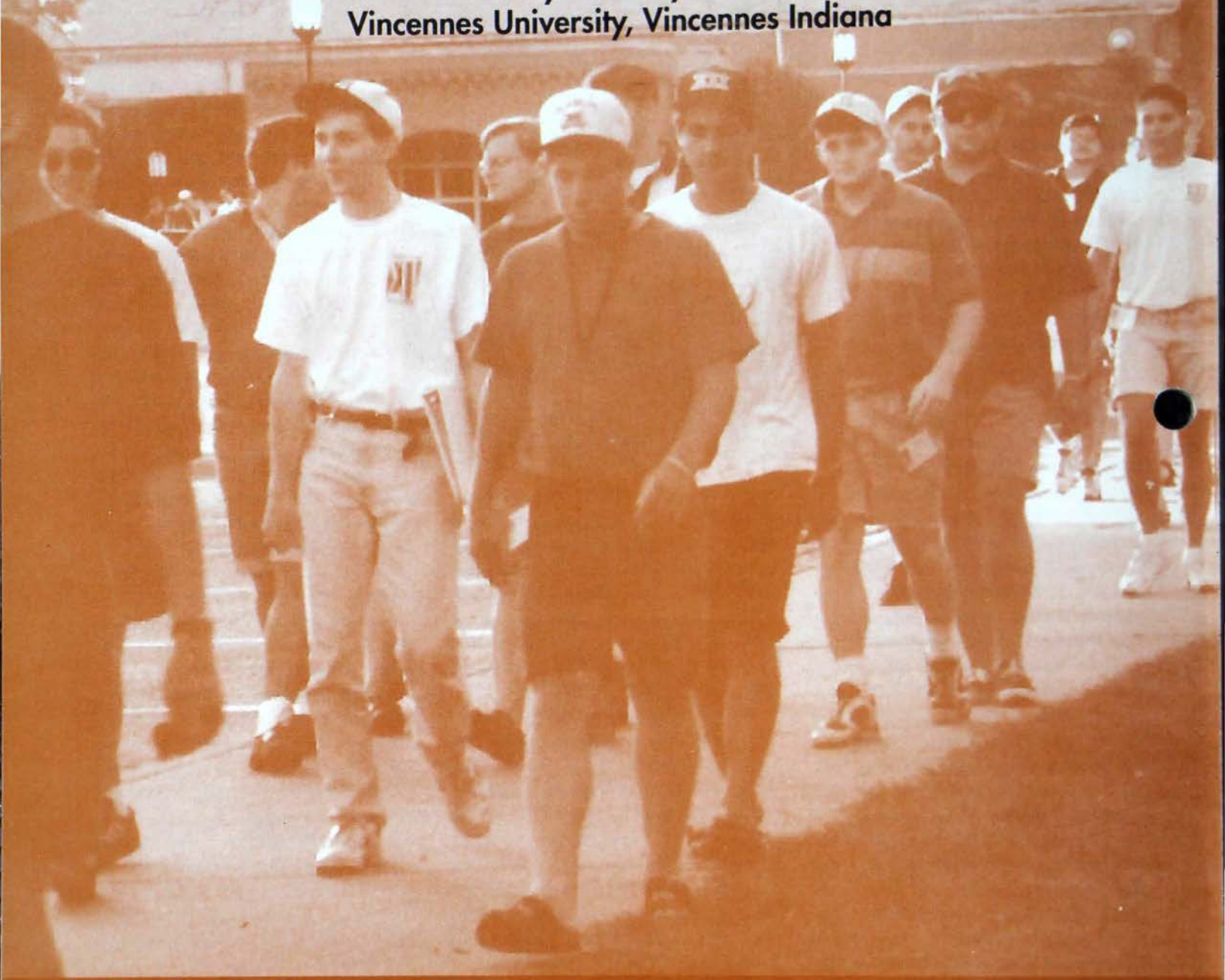
*Will Continue*

THIS SUMMER IN VINCENNES

**LEADERSHIP '96**

July 24 - July 27

Vincennes University, Vincennes Indiana



Sigma Pi Fraternity, International  
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Vincennes, IN 47591