

EARLY CHAPTERS OF DELTA TAU DELTA AT WABASH COLLEGE

I CHAPTER MU, In the Beginning... (1872-1875)

The upstairs rooms of a student rooming house located on the site of 406 South Washington Street and operated by Mrs. Rebecca Rossler, might well be regarded as the birthplace of Delta Tau Delta at Wabash College. Elden B. Pierce '77, Charles H. Crain '78, John J. Hinman '75, James S. Turpee '75, Dewitt C. Frazier '74, and David Webb '76 occupied these rooms and along with Morris W. Phillips '77, Irwin A. Detchen '73, John L. Wilson '74, John J. Sloan '75, George B. Welty '76 and James D. Connor '76, are today honored at the founders of the first chapter of Delta Tau Delta on the Wabash College campus.

The desire to establish a chapter of the Fraternity led these men to petition Delta Tau Delta early in the fall of 1872. In the early days of the Fraternity it was not as difficult to enter the portals of Delta Tau Delta as it is today, so with a minimum of difficulty and fanfare the petition was granted and a chapter was installed either on October 30 or on November 9, 1872, and was known as Chapter Mu. The work of installation was in charge of Justin N. Study of the Alpha Chapter (the governing body of the Fraternity of that time) at Ohio Wesleyan College located at Delaware, Ohio.

Installation of the Chapter took place in Brother Study's room in the Ramsey Hotel, corner of Green and Market Streets. At once quarters were secured by the Chapter on the third floor over the Citizens National Bank just east of the Courthouse. It was the first Fraternity Chapter at Wabash to have regular meeting rooms. As a Fraternity the Chapter lived *sub rosa* until the spring of 1873.

The Chapter was first assigned the name *Mu*. The Ohio Wesleyan Chapter, now the *Mu* Chapter of the Fraternity, was the Alpha Chapter in 1872 when our Chapter was given the name *Mu*.

It is difficult for modern day Fraternity men to realize the loosely-knit organization and supervision prevalent, in the early days of the Greek letter organizations. In fact, there was no supervision or organization. Delta Tau Delta was certainly no exception. The system was still new, untried, altogether without precedent. A few survived; most lived a year, two years, and disappeared. Chapters would split overnight and the morrow would find two distinct organizations, the new one with a new combination of Greek letters. Now and then an entire chapter would ally itself with a rival parent organization. Pledges meant nothing; rituals and fraternity secret matters were stolen by rivals and made public. It was a dog-eat-dog existence.

So it is not surprising that we find the following in an article by Lowrie McClurg, Alpha '79, "Extinct Chapters of our Fraternity," which appeared in the January, 1891 issue of the *The Rainbow*: "Unfortunately, just at that time (1872-75) the College (Wabash) suffered one of those eclipses to which all colleges are subject, and for two years the students entering were of such poor quality that the Chapter could not afford to initiate them. In the meantime some of the charter members had left College, so that in 1875 the three who were left, after looking over the ground, concluded the interest of the Fraternity would be best served by the return of the charter."

Thus we have the close of the first Wabash College Chapter of Delta Tau Delta-Chapter Mu from 1872 to 1875. Three short years. Yet the groundwork was laid. We speak of the lack of organization and supervision, yet even without these there was a deep seated sense of Fraternity loyalty born within some of these twelve founders. Brother Irwin A. Detchon '73, a member of the prominent Crawfordsville family, was an enthusiastic alumnus for his entire life. Brother Charles H. Crain '77 became a well known Chicago doctor, and remained an interested alumnus until his death.

II CHAPTER PSI, A Chapter Best Forgotten 1877 - 1879

Continuing with Brother McClurg's *Rainbow* article, we read: "In 1877 things brightened considerably for the College, and the Hanover Phi Chapter, then in the height of its prosperity, sent three of its members (Charles A. Allen, Robert C. Lambe, and James M. Shannon) to Wabash for the purpose of reviving the Chapter. They entered in January, 1877, and had soon persuaded five others to petition with them for a charter; this was granted after some hesitation, and the new chapter (Psi) apparently started out well. In *The Crescent* of December 12, 1877, Vol. I, No. 4, we find: 'Chapter Psi, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, is becoming a bright star in the constellation of Delta Tauism. Brother Kendall is a wide awake Delta. Psi has a good field of labor, and much is expected of her.' But though the new members were of good social position and stood well in the classroom, they lacked stamina and business capacity.

"In September the Hanover men returned to their Chapter and almost immediately Psi Chapter began to get into trouble. Matters went from bad to worse until in October, 1879, the Chapter was ordered to return its charter."

Here we have the end of the Second Era of our Chapters at Wabash. Ending on a somewhat shameful basis, we know nothing about the men of this middle period.

III ALPHA THETA PHI, A New Beginning... 1890 - 1894

Between the years 1879, when Chapter Psi faded out of existence and 1890, there was no semblance of an organization related to Delta Tau Delta in any way at Wabash.

In that latter year, however, there was organized a group which was greatly to influence Delta Tau Delta.

Quoting from their petition to Delta Tau Delta we read: "At the time of its establishment fraternities at Wabash were in a state of demoralization. The five represented here (Beta Theta Pi, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Delta Theta, and Sigma Chi) were all greatly stocked with undesirable men, and on this account many of the best students preferred membership in the 'Barb' association which then controlled everything in local college politics and which was almost as exclusive as any of the secret societies. Its size, however, was such as to be somewhat unwieldy, and it lacked the elements of exclusiveness and congeniality which are so essential to a permanent organization. At the time named (1890), therefore, a few of the best men in the association decided to withdraw and to form a secret society employing the methods and forms of a Greek-letter fraternity. On the announcement of their action the 'Barb' Association at once disbanded and has never reorganized. (This was written in 1894).

"The new society assumed the name 'Alpha Theta Phi'. Very soon it had won recognition from the existing fraternities. Its success has been noteworthy in all departments—in class, in athletics, and in social circles. In Scholarship the men have always maintained the highest average standing. Nor is this a mere guess; for a committee, according to the fraternity's constitution, makes out from the College Register at the close of each term the general average of all the fraternities here and presents the report to the Fraternity. H. L. Starr has this year won the English fellowship over more than twenty competitors. Oratory, too, has flourished. For three successive years Wabash was represented in the State Contest by an Alpha Theta Phi. On the college magazine, Alpha Theta Phi has been well represented as well as on the Annual. Edgar H. Evans was business manager of the latter in 1891 and in 1892 H. L. Starr was Editor-in-Chief of the same. In athletics, besides furnishing many players, the Chapter has had its share in the management. They have furnished two presidents of the Athletic Association. In 1891 Evans was manager of both football and baseball teams. Van Nuys was manager of the baseball team in 1892. Modesty forbids them to boast of their social successes but they do not fear comparison with their rivals in this regard.

"Since Alpha theta Phi has been in existence several national fraternities have sought to absorb it; namely Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Kappa Sigma, and Sigma Nu, the latter having sent representatives three times to offer a charter—the last time being February, 1894.

"Great care is exercised in the admission of new men. All vote on this and other important subjects by secret ballot. Only students in the College are initiated and no one is admitted except on secret and unanimous vote. thus the fraternity has been able to maintain the highest degree of harmony and congeniality with the Chapter. the bond between the graduate and active members has remained very strong. annual reunions are held and the interests of the fraternity guarded closely by all alike."

A petition from Alpha Theta Phi was denied by the Arch Chapter at the thirty-second Karnea in Indianapolis in August, 1893. Apparently, the denial put the local to work; they got to work in true fraternity spirit to attain their coveted goal. A Charter was granted in 1894, between Karneas, after statements had been secured from prominent men all over the country, with assistance from all other Delt chapters in Indiana.

The revised petition contained a long dissertation on Wabash College and a list of the founders of Alpha Theta Phi with their occupations at the time of the petition:

- '90 U. C. Stover, Attorney Midland Railroad, Anderson, Indiana
- '90 J. T. Orton, Minister, Winamac, Indiana
- '91 W. L. VanNuys, Princeton Theological Seminary
- '91 E. H. Randolph, lawyer, Lafayette, Indiana
- '92 H. T. Gary, Union Theological Seminary
- '92 F. T. Steele, Union Theological Seminary
- '92 E. H. Evans, Manufacturer, Indianapolis, Indiana
- '92 E. B. Uline, Ass't to President Coulter, Lake Forest University
- '93 W. E. Vanderbilt, Auburn Theological Seminary
- '93 J. C. Van Nuys, Assistant in Zoology, Wabash College
- '93 H. L. Starr, Fellow in English Department, Wabash College

The petition closes with the following: "It is in place here to note that this petition has the hearty approval of each of the graduating members, of the Indianapolis Delta tau Delta Alumni Association, and of all of the state chapters of Delta Tau Delta.

"Possessing a well situated and well furnished hall on the main street of the city, an acquaintance with methods of fraternity work, a creditable history and bright prospects for the coming year, they believe they are prepared to assume the responsibilities which a favorable action of your body would place upon them. They therefore submit the case hopefully, and ask for it your fullest and most careful consideration.

We the undersigned members of the Wabash College Alpha Theta Phi fraternity humbly petition Delta Tau Delta for a chapter of that fraternity."

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| H. L. Starr '93 | B. V. Armbruster '99 |
| J. C. Van Nuys '93 | W. R. Davidson '96 |
| C. D. Stevens '94 | H. H. Herdman '96 |
| J. E. Dame '95 | A. B. Bayer '97 |
| D. D. Hains '95 | B. R. Howel '97 |
| L. D. Young '95 | |

Together with this active chapter petition, through an energetic letter writing campaign, the Arch Chapter received letters from every possible source. One was from fifteen prominent Indianapolis Delts, another from David Turpee, U. S. Senator from Indiana, another from Claude Matthews, Governor of Indiana; and the prize of them all:

Indianapolis, Indiana
December 27, 1893

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of December 19th. Surely the standards of Wabash College among the educational institutions of the country must be too well known to require any certification from me. Your president and professors, in their contact with those of other institutions have, I am sure, given Wabash a reputation that will entitle its students to recognition in any college fraternity.

Very truly yours,
Benjamin Harrison,
Ex-President, U.S.

Other letters of recommendation came from J.P.D. John, Depauw University President; J. G. Schurman, Cornell University President; Joseph Swain, President of Indiana University; M. E. Gates, President of Amherst College; John M. Coulter, President of Lake Forest University; W. H.H. Miller, ex-Attorney General; John Clark Ridpath, the historian; U. W. Stryker, President of Hamilton College; Charles F. Thwing, President of Western Reserve University; Scot Butler, President of Butler University, and Maurice H. Thompson, novelist.

With such an august send off, the new chapter of Delta Tau Delta's early success was assured and has continued for 100 years.

100 YEARS OF BETA PSI

IV A Distinguished era Begins ... 1894 -

The following article appeared in the November 1894 issue of The Rainbow under the title "Our Wabash Chapter:" "The past year has been an interesting one for our historian. Three times have chapters long since dead, including one which could be said to have died at birth, been brought to life again; the last is the regeneration of the old Psi at Wabash College into Beta Psi of today. It begins well, with a lot of

energetic and enthusiastic men who have been organized since 1890 as the local Alpha Theta Phi.

"The installation took place on the evening of September eleventh, in the private rooms of the Commercial Club of Indianapolis. The rooms were soon converted into a chapter hall, and the initiation began under the supervision of Harry Murphy, '87, of Chi; William W. Lowery, '87, of Chi; and Alvin Duerr, '93, of Sigma (later national President of Delta Tau Delta, 1925-27). The initiation was followed by a pleasant dinner.

"The event was thoroughly enjoyable. The alumni of Indianapolis turned out well. (Walter L.) McClurg (Alpha '79, national President 1888-1891) was in a measure responsible for the acquisition, and, of course, came from Chicago to see that the proper treatment was accorded it. Then there was Professor Kingery of Crawfordsville, Mull of Rushville, Duerr of Exeter, New Hampshire, Beta Zeta (Butler University) en masse, and many others. Brother (Ernest R.) Keith (Beta Beta '90) ushered in each flow of eloquence with a happy introduction, and Potts, McClurg, McMasters, Kingery and (James B.) Curtis (Beta Zeta '80, national President 1907-1919) among the veterans, all responded. Ludlow did the honors for the undergraduate chapters, and (Daniel D.) Hains (Beta Psi '95) testified that Delta enthusiasm is as contagious as whooping cough to an infant.

"Delta Tau Delta is well pleased with this last addition to her chapter roll--she has been sleeping at Wabash for fifteen years, and has awakened to find herself installed in a new institution, because progress has left few signs, except traditions of the old, and possessed of a body of men who, during four years, have shown their ability to succeed. Wabash is in the unique position of being one of the few non-coeducational colleges in the West--her men are of a good class, and as is but natural in such institutions, fraternities are an important factor in their college life. We have a right to expect much of our new chapter and we feel that we will not be disappointed."

The national Secretary's roster shows that the following men were initiated that evening:

Benjamin H. Howell '97	James E. Dame '95
Daniel D. Hains '95	Brandt C. Downey '96
Alex B. Boozer '97	William R. Davidson, Jr. '96
Lozair D. Young '95	John H. Binford '97
Edgar H. Evans '92	

The following men were initiated later in 1894:

<u>October 10, 1894</u>	<u>November 30, 1894</u>
George A. Ferguson '98	Julius T. Orton '90
Clarence D. Stevens '94	
Charles E. Crockett '94	<u>December 11, 1894</u>
Ashton M. VanNuys '98	Hugh H. Herdman, Jr. '96

The History of Delta Tau Delta at Wabash would be incomplete without a word of acknowledgement and appreciation for one of the Alpha Theta Phi founders -- Edgar H. Evans '92. Brother Evans was a trustee of Wabash College for many years -- one of the most generous contributors to the College Endowment Fund and a staunch supporter of the various forensic activities of the college. It can be said further, that the acquisition of the "Delta Shelter" at 506 W. Wabash would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, had it not been for the generosity of Brother Evans.

Beta Psi made great progress in all undertakings she attempted, and in 1896 the fraternity quarters were moved from the third floor of the Elston National Bank building on the corner of Main and Green Streets, to the third floor of the Citizens National Bank building, just east of the Courthouse. It is extremely interesting to read the minutes of the Fraternity during these early years as to the ways and means by which furnishing for the "New Hall" were obtained.

One other event in the early years of Beta Psi is well to note here. In the fall of 1901 only two active Beta Psi men returned to college. It was debated from some time whether to hand in the charter or to continue. Luckily the second alternative was chosen and with the pledging of some of the best men in college the chapter enjoyed a prosperous year. One of these actives was Roy Messina, who became one of the most prominent attorneys in Chicago, an active and interested Delt for almost half a century, a former President of the Beta Psi Alumni Association, former trustee of Wabash College, and the father of Fred Massena '48.

Again, by the perseverance of a few men, Delta Tau Delta at Wabash was kept alive and flourishing.

In the summer of 1906, after twelve years of noteworthy existence, the chapter took up its residence in "White Hall" on South Water Street, the old home of Professor Charles White, a faculty member from 1841 to 1861. The acquisition of the new home was made possible through the efforts of a self-appointed committee composed of John Booe '07, and A. M. Crawford '09. The present chapter shelter is built on the site of Brother Crawford's family home.

During the summer Brother Booe visited the alumni over the state and collected the sum of \$200 for the purpose of furnishing the new home. The house, then the property of George Vance, was rented for \$35.00 per month, and was remodeled into one of the best fraternity houses on the campus. Over \$500 worth of furniture was purchased from a local merchant, and with the assistance of the ladies of the city, the committee was able to have the house in readiness by the time college opened in September, 1906. Meals were not served at the house until the second year. The rooms over the Citizens Bank were retained for about two years for the purpose of holding dances and initiations. Beta Psi held its resident in White Hall until 1919, with the exception of the year 1916-17 when the chapter was located in the Schultz home at 411 West Main Street.

With the entrance of the United States into World War I in 1917 the chapter again faced the test. During

the first semester of 1918-19 the chapter was practically inactive. With the second semester White Hall was reopened by the chapter which was able to boast of only eight men. We can be proud of the fact that more than sixty Beta Psi Delts responded to their country's call during the troubled months of the first world conflict.

The second home occupied by Beta Psi as a permanent home was at 211 East Pike Street. it was purchased during the summer of 1919 through the noble work of a committee composed of Brothers Betchon '73, Hains '95, Downey '96, Binford '97, Booe '07, Schultz '08, Crawford '09 and Murphy '19. the house was formerly the home of Dr. O. H. Jones.

On June 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1923, the chapter held its Fiftieth Anniversary celebration with more than sixty of the alumni returning, including five of the original founders of 1872 and many of the 1894 Alpha Theta Phi petitioners. the four-day reunion was very fittingly dedicated to the eight 1872 founders. The Fiftieth Anniversary banquet was held on Friday evening in the Wabash Room of the Endicott Cafe. "Doc" Weiland, Eta, one of the "grand old men of Delta Tau Delta," was the toastmaster. The responders and their subjects were: Brandt C. Downey, Beta Psi '96, Perl Miller, Beta Phi '12, Dave Webb, Beta Psi '76, Edward Price Bell, Beta Psi '98, Dan Hains, Beta Psi '95, and George S. Stasand, Beta Psi '23.

From the beginning of the occupancy of the Pike Street house the chapter grew in size until the late '20's it became evident that Beta psi had to have more adequate and modern housing in order to survive. Fraternities were coming of age and rushing as becoming a "college science." The Pike Street house was seven blocks from the campus; the Delts were definitely out of the swim. The house was in a very poor state of repair and the chapter morale was gradually slipping.

The subject of a new house was first mentioned in 1925 in the regular Beta Psi report to The Rainbow. Finally, on December 24, 1930, the Wabash College Foundation entered into a bond with the Delta Tau Delta Association of Wabash College for a deed to the property at 506 West Wabash Avenue. This property, known as the Brown Mansion, had at one time been the home of College President Tuttle. It was in the center of college activities, directly across the street from the campus, a large, liveable, and substantial house. The above mentioned bond provided for purchase of the property at a total price of \$23,000. The bond further provided tha tlegal title might be acquired at any time after a total of \$10,000 had been paid on account of principal, a purchase money mortgage then to be given to secure the balance of the principal due.

A small group of seven loyal alumni endorsed the paper for a loan of \$10,000 to the Alumni Association, which financed the remodeling and furnished the home. Remodeling started July 1, 1931, and the chapter occupied the house for the fall semester of 1931. It afforded generous accommodations for twenty-five men and was in every way an ideal house for a fraternity on the Wabash campus.

Such undertaking cannot be accomplished with the diligent, untiring, and unselfish efforts of the alumni. As is so very often the case, the herculean task of acquiring, remodeling, furnishing, and financing the "new house" fell to a few alumni who gave of their time and talents with but one objective in mind -- to give Beta Psi of Delta Tau Delta a home which the boys and alumni could be proud of and which would be a credit to the College and the Fraternity. It is impossible to list here all of the alumni and their wives who contributed time and money to the task. Suffice it to say that the Alumni Committee was composed of the following men: Lewis Bishop, Brandt C. Downey, Roy Massena, Charles McCabe, Judge Noel Neal, Jurt F. Pantzer, and Marshall Pipin.

Again, upon the acquisition of the West Wabash Avenue shelter the chapter grew in size until the point was reached where the dining room accommodations were not sufficient for the needs of the chapter. There was also a need for a library and for additional living and study quarters. Consequently, in 1936 a new and much larger dining room was added, the old dining room being converted into a library; a new ground floor dormitory was added, thus making the old "dorm" available for an additional study room.

It is needless to say that Beta Psi entered into a new era of prosperity with the 1931 acquisition of a new house, and with enlargement in 1936. Morale was high, scholarship was excellent, college and fraternity activity participation was universal. Indicative of this is the fact that the Indianapolis Alumni Foundation Scholarship Award has gone to Beta Psi four of the eleven times it was awarded - 1933-34, 1934-35, 1938-39, and 1939-40.

One of the greatest misfortunes ever to befall Beta Psi occurred on November 13, 1937 -- Homecoming Day -- when Brandt C. Downey met with an accident which resulted in his death on November 19th. Brother Downey was then President of both the Alumni Association and the House Corporation.

Brother Downey gave many years' service to Beta Psi and Delta Tau Delta. Next to his devotion to his family, his love for his Fraternity exceeded all of his many other interests.

Quoting from the "The Little Giant Delt" of October 1936: "The dream and desire of building an additional section to the Wabash Delt House, in order to effect most desirable changes in the downstairs portion of the house, as well as an increase in the total capacity, has been that of Brandt Downey, an alumnus who during the past forty years has had a heartfelt interest in all things beneficial to the chapter." From his first college days a member of Alpha Theta Phi and his initiation into Beta Psi Chapter of Delta Tau Delta his interest was unfaltering. He was President of the Northern Division for two terms, general chairman of the 1913 Indianapolis Karnea and, quoting from his Distinguished Service Citation: "The inspiration and protector of Beta Psi Chapter; one who has never failed to answer any call of the Fraternity."

Shortly after Brandt's death -- in fact before the Christmas vacation of 1937 -- the chapter voted to

dedicate the new library to his memory. At a very fitting ceremony, attended by alumni and faculty members, the dedication was made by Robert S. Edwards, then President of the chapter. A plaque, bearing the Fraternity Crest and the legend "This library is dedicated to the memory of Brandt C. Downey -- Beta Psi '96, 1873-1937" was given to the chapter by a close friend of the dedicatee's son, who wishes to remain anonymous. Mrs. Downey and Bowman gave the chapter a portrait and the Court of Honor Citation (now known as the Distinguished Service Citation).

Beta Psi has produced several men who have been leaders in the Fraternity, leaders because of the great amount of sincere and unselfish devotion, service and time they have given to Delta Tau Delta. Five of these men have been recipients of the Distinguished Service Citation. The first was the above mentioned Brandt Downey; the second was Charles McCabe, the chapter advisor of Gamma Lambda, the Delt Chapter at Purdue University. Charley is one who has truly given of his life blood to Gamma Lambda, making it one of the outstanding Delt chapters in the country. The third D.S.C. man was our 50 year chapter adviser Lawrence (Larry) Sheaffer. Larry celebrated his golden anniversary -- 50 years as Beta Psi's adviser -- in 1970. Fifty years - a long, long time in a labor of love - which the going often times has been rough, time consuming and, to frequently, thankless. Larry and Lulu - the perennial dance chaperones - always on call - always happy to help out in a quiet, unassuming, efficient and cooperative manner. Too few realize the hours and hours of work that Larry has given to this fraternity - a chapter Savior during the War. Larry undoubtedly knew more Beta Psi Deltas than any other five men selected from our alumni rolls. Roy Massena active in national and local fraternity affairs and Dr. N. Durwood Coy the men most responsible for the new shelter were the fourth and fifth WSC recipients.

A never-to-be-forgotten era of our chapter's history is that of the years of World War II, a sad and desolate time, yet in some respects a most glorious and encouraging one. From the declaration of war in December 1941, the chapter naturally diminished, but it was not until June of 1943, that the civilian school at Wabash closed and the U.S. Navy V-12 program was introduced. At that time the Beta Psi shelter was turned over to the College as a dormitory for the V-12 enrollees. The chapter owes everlasting thanks to Larry Sheaffer for literally dismantling the shelter before surrendering possession to the Navy. Nearly all items of value were taken to this home for storage; thus losses of irreplaceable items were avoided.

By October of 1943 the College had given each fraternity on the campus a room in Forest Hall, furnished with items belonging to the respective chapters. These rooms were gathering places between classes, and provided meeting rooms. It was in the Delt room at Forest Hall that Larry first hung the Beta Psi Roll of Honor bearing the names of our brothers in service in World War II. At the end of the War this Roll

bore the names of 135 Wabash Delts, and five gold stars:

A. B. Armstrong, Jr. '27
James Y. Bales '31
Williams M. Mason '33
Barry R. Walker '37
Newell VanSickle '40

In October 1943 there were but four Wabash Delts, three Navy men and one civilian student. Six additional men, all in service, were pledged and later initiated. The week after their initiation, six men were transferred by the Navy to stations elsewhere.

Thus it went all through the War. Men were assigned to the Wabash complement, pledged Delta Tau Delta perhaps to stay long enough to qualify for initiation, and then were transferred. However, during this entire period the chapter maintained a full social schedule, carried on all fraternity functions, and most important of all kept alive the Beta Psi and Delta Tau Delta traditions. It can be said, without fear of contradiction that the World War II Delts were the most enthusiastic Delts in the history of Beta Psi. They were exceptionally high calibre men; many have returned to Beta Psi, and in nearly every instance were men have gone to other institutions to complete their education commenced at Wabash during the War, they have affiliated with the local Delt chapters.

The chapter's roster during the War contained as few as three men, but as many as twenty-nine. This was an admirable record for any War chapter, a record for which three Beta Psi alumni deserve the credit — Larry Sheaffer, Bill Grims (adopted into Beta Psi from his own undergraduate chapter at Chicago University), and Don Frist.

Saturday, January 19, 1946, just before the V-12 contingent made its final departure from the campus, faulty wiring set fire to the shelter. The second and third floors were almost totally destroyed, and of course water soaked the remaining portions of the house, ruining floors and walls. Those who viewed the ruins know that there is nothing more desolate and forbidding than a burned house, a house upon which the very existence of a chapter depends. Again, loyal Delts responded to an urgent Chapter call. In addition, the College and people of Crawfordsville cooperated in a magnificent manner, with both financial and moral support, in the reconstruction of the house. Time and space do not allow us to recount in detail the steps in rebuilding, remodeling and refurnishing the nearly-ruined house. However, the principal contributors should not be overlooked. Harland Hadley, '16, a prominent Indianapolis insurance man, and an ever loyal and active Delt, handled the problems of insurance settlements in such a way that Brother Frist was able to refurnish the house in a manner ideally suited to the comfort of the men. As President of the "House Corporation" Harlan Hadley supervised and coordinated the reconstruction program, assisted in many vital

respects by Tom Luster, Carl Pinkerton, and other Crawfordsville Delts.

The reconstruction work was completed in time for the opening of school in September 1946. Shortly after one of its most successful rush seasons the Chapter held a Sunday afternoon open house and reception for alumni, faculty, and Crawfordsville friends of the Chapter. It was apparent to all who attended that Beta Psi was on her feet and prepared for leadership in the post-war era.

Beta Psi has vaulted many hurdles, and has emerged from many critical periods without vital setback to her progress. Its head held high with pardonable pride it recognizes no superior — it knows no equal.

At the 1946 Homecoming, Don Frist appointed the General Committee for the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Celebration of Delta Tau Delta at Wabash to be held sometime in the fall of 1947. The Committee, composed of the Alumni Association officers and the chairmen of committees, is: C. C. Rees, Honorary Chairman; Don Frist, Chairman; Tom Luster, Al Webb, Bowman Downey, Jack Curry, Larry Sheaffer, Lynn Davis, Bill Grimes, Francis Fay, Kurt Pantzer, Roy Massena, Carl Pinkerton, Dick Savidge, Carter Tharp, and Fred Massena.

The celebration that was held on October 18 and 19, 1947 was the most ambitious undertaking in the chapter's history.

The alumni leadership passed on to Bowman Downey '37 and Carter Tharp '39 soon after the 75th Anniversary in 1947. These were tranquil and prosperous years for Beta Psi. The Chapter continued to distinguish itself in the many facets of campus life attaining dominance in the sixties, while the chapter was dominating athletics, activities, and occasionally scholastics, the shelter was crumbling from time and the heavy feet of the young men of Beta Psi.

In 1969, after nearly forty years at 506 W. Wabash, the Chapter moved into a beautiful new shelter at 603 W. Wabash on the site of the historic Crawford Mansion. Built and furnished at a cost of over \$500,000, the new shelter was the dream of a small group of Beta Psi alumni. A decision was made in the mid-fifties not to expand and repair the "506" shelter but to build a new shelter. It was a dream not to be realized for nearly fifteen years.

The names of Edgar Evans, Roy Massena, Brandt Downey are writ large in the early years of Beta Psi, so shall the names of Dr. N. Durwood Cory, Carther Tharp, and Dr. Thomas Cole in the next twenty-five years. These three men holding the reins of formal and informal leadership in the last decade pushed to build the new shelter. Dr. Cory headed the expanded house corporation from the late fifties until his untimely death in 1971. His determination gave others purpose in the long, often discouraging drive.

The following friends and alumni of Beta Psi are a few of those whose time, money, and donations made the new shelter possible.

Maurice Chadwick, William s. Miller, Kurt Pantzer, Rudolph Campbell, Richard Schreiber, Marshall Pippin, James Kipp, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Harrell (in memory of Edgar H. Evans), George Sando, John Marhdt, Dr. Karl Kohlstaedt, Malcom McDermott, Richard Howell, William Laser, Greble L. McFarland Jr., Lawrence Shaeffer, Donald Cranston, John Binford, Mrs. Ray Massena, Adelbert Thoeming, Edward F. Randak, Dr. John Pantzer, R. E. Hueber, Donald R. Mote, and Don K. Caplinger.

A celebration October 14, 1972 marked 100 years of Delta Tau Delta involvement at Wabash College.

BETA PSI IN THE 70'S by Christopher Baker '74

Woodstock. Viet Nam. Watergate. The new Shelter. The draft lottery.

All of these conjure up images of the world as it existed in the 70's. To each, different perspectives, different experiences, and different perceptions. The mood of the world was in flux, and this perception did not escape the tranquil heartland of Crawfordsville, IN, Wabash College or Beta Psi. In fact, it was an integral part of Beta Psi in the 70's, which helped to shape and direct a new decade of men.

The class of '73 started their Wabash experience in the new Shelter. The Woodstock music festival was history and the men of Beta Psi moved to a modern, larger facility. In part because of this move, the Beta Psi that existed in the 50's and 60's ceased to exist. Beta Psi was in flux, and the 70's mirrored the mood of the nation and the college experience in general.

No longer was tradition and history sufficient in and of itself. The men of Beta Psi during the 70's challenged the old traditions and re-evaluated the place of the fraternity system in general.

Notwithstanding this re-evaluation, Beta Psi of the 70's continued to be a leader on campus. The sport of choice during this decade was soccer. Maybe that fact both reflects and helps to define the individualism and re-evaluation that was being experienced. Traditionalism was now undergoing change.

Beta Psi of the mid 70's, however, survived in spite of itself. The new Shelter and the increased cost to maintain the facility necessitated larger and larger pledge classes. By 1973, a Shelter that could house up to 72, was barely at half that number. However, with the help of dedicated alumni, the chapter survived. By the end of the decade, Beta Psi was once again stronger, and the financial difficulties that existed in the early and mid 70's were not as pervasive.

Beta Psi, notwithstanding these difficulties, continued to maintain its standing on campus; academically, athletically, and also individually. The men of Beta Psi contributed to the College through their participation in intercollegiate, and intramural athletics,

their involvement in student government and through their participation in the Wabash media--"The Bachelor" and radio station WNDY as examples.

The skepticism of the nation, however, did not escape fraternity life. The issues seemed more complicated, and the answers less clear. The "Happy Days" of the 50's and 60's were gone, and new challenges emerged. Beta Psi met the challenge of the 70's and survived. Because it survived, the new Beta Psi emerged and served as the foundation for a new fraternity experience. Independent. Self-reliant. Aggressive.

The "turn on and tune out" generation gave way to a new generation of men who reflected a renewed interest in both the College and Beta Psi during the 80's. Beta Psi in the 70's was nothing like Beta Psi in any other decade. Yet, in some ways, it was the same. Beta Psi was and probably still is a microcosm of the nation as a whole.

BETA PSI IN THE 1980's by Jim Dimas '83

The decade of the 80's began with the movie "Animal House" as one of the most popular movies among college students. At times, it must have appeared to the administration, the faculty, and the alumni that the Delts of Faber College were more of an influence on Beta Psi than the Delts in the Central Office. However, at the same time, Beta Psi continued to serve as an influential fraternity on the Wabash campus and began to develop into a significant player in the national fraternity system.

The chapter's influence on campus events was extensive. At times during the first four years of the decade, Delts made up more than 10% of the entire student body. This numerical superiority was recognized one year when Beta Psi was granted an additional seat in the Student Senate due to the fact that the chapter's members made up such a significant portion of the student body.

On the athletic field, Beta Psi was well represented. Delts had always been important members of the very successful football team. The chapter's athletic prowess extended to other sports as well, with members participating on the soccer, wrestling, tennis, baseball, golf, cross-country, and track teams. Of Course, Delts were also prevalent on the basketball team—including members who were part of the 1982 National Championship team. Besides varsity sports, Beta Psi dominated the I.M. competition, winning the campus title on numerous occasions during the 80's.

Delts were also involved in other campus activities. We had Presidents of the Student Senate, Presidents of the IFC, Editor-in-Chiefs of the Bachelor and Program Directors at WNDY. Delts were members of the Glee

Club and in theater as well. Finally, academics were always a concern as well, with the chapter placing well in the scholastic rankings.

Beta Psi also began to firmly establish itself as a leader in the national fraternity during this decade as well. While the fruits of the labors of all Beta Psi Deltas can be seen in the Hugh Shields Awards the chapter has recently won; the decisions made in the 80's to revamp pledgship and to develop a stronger academic program were the seeds for some of the Chapter's later success. The 80's also saw the time when the chapter recognized the changing composition of the Wabash student body. Though at times painful, and maybe not done as quickly as some would have liked, Beta Psi recognized the need to have a racially and ethnically diverse chapter and that goal was accomplished as well.

As the "greed" decade of the 80's drew to the close, Beta Psi reflected the times in one extent. Its members and alumni had indeed looked out for the interest of the chapter and, as a result, Beta Psi entered the 90's with a strength matched by few other chapters on the Wabash campus or, for that matter, nationally. This strength laid some of the groundwork that allowed the most recent chapter members to become one of the most influential Delt chapters in the country.

BETA PSI AT 100

The Nineteen Nineties have seen Beta Psi gain recognition by the National Fraternity and the College for its leadership roles on the Wabash College Campus and in the Fraternity itself. Winning the Hugh Shields Award in 1992 and 1994 are the result of years of hard work on the part of the active Chapter and recent graduates. Winning the Hugh Shields Award is not an end in itself, but the culmination of doing things right for a long time.

The Chapter was a leader in intelligently and responsibly developing an alcohol program. Maintaining good scholarship, always a high priority, is best demonstrated by the fact that nearly a dozen Deltas have been initiated into Phi Beta Kappa in recent years, more than 10% of all Phi Beta Kappa members in the last 100 years. The chapter has furnished the college with leaders in student government, athletics both varsity and intramurals, and in the many aspects of campus life including strong social, faculty, and alumni relations programs.

Striving for excellence, while maintaining a balance, between good academics and other aspects of campus life is the result of hard work, dedication and excellent chapter administration and participation. The present generation and recent graduates have made every

alumnus proud to be a member of Beta Psi, and we congratulate you for your achievements.

The future and prosperity of Beta Psi is dependent on Wabash College's fortunes as one of the last remaining all Male Colleges in the Nation. The strength of the Fraternity system is an integral part of the history and success of Wabash and promises to be one of the keys to its future. The Men of Beta Psi wish to thank the Administration and Trustees of Wabash College for providing an environment in which Beta Psi could survive and flourish.

We are especially grateful for recent strides the current Administration has made to strengthen ties between the college and its fraternities.

Happy Birthday Beta Psi and best wishes to you and Wabash College for a continued partnership in education.

WABASH 1894 - 1994

1894 - President Elihu Baldwin; Tuition, \$16 a year; Room and Board, \$2.00 to \$4.50 a week; Greek & Latin required courses; 3 literary societies listed; enrollment 145. Honor scholarship paid \$50 year.

1919 - President, George L. Mackintosh; Tuition, \$60 a year; Room and Board, \$6.00 to \$7.50 a week; 1 literary society listed, 8 hours of Military training required.

1944-1945 - Wabash published no catalogue in 1944 due to WW II paper shortage. President, Frank H. Sparks; Tuition, \$300 a year; Room and Board, \$10 to \$12 a week; no literary society listed.

1969 - President, Thaddeaus Seymour; Tuition, \$2,000 a year; Room and Board, \$800 to \$1,100 a year; African-American Studies and Far Eastern Studies offered.

1994 - President, Andrew Ford; Tuition, \$12,200 a year; Room and Board, \$4,000 a year; Greek and Latin still offered in addition to Russian.

