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> Don Wedge '51 937-339-4640 (H)

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The Theta Data

THETA CHAPTER • BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY
OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

http://www.owu.edu/-betaweb/

Beta Alumni Profiles

WILLIAM "BILL" ROWLAND '68, ROLL #1138

HOMETOWN LIFE, PICKING OWU

Bill Rowland, more often known as "Billy R" by his brothers, was raised within a stone's throw of Delaware and didn't even know that OWU existed until he enrolled. Bill was raised in Sunbury, about 10 miles due east of Delaware. He attended Big Walnut High School where he was a very active young man. Bill was the captain of his basketball team and he was also first team all league; he also starred in track. He was involved in many class activities including the school yearbook, band and national honor society and graduated as class valedictorian with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Although he had no intention of going to college, his father had other ideas, and so with dad's prodding, Bill looked for a college and enrolled at Bowling Green. "Not so," said dad, who insisted he find a small private school. Bill applied at OWU and was immediately accepted, receiving a tuition grant, probably in no small part due to that 4.0 GPA! As Bill now says, "What a great stroke of luck it was for me to come to OWU for the most wonderful experience of my life."

BETA EXPERIENCES

Upon arrival at OWU, Bill and a Sunbury buddy, John Burrer '68, were both rushed by Beta. Both were impressed with the upperclassmen and the house and were quickly pledged. Bill has fond memories of his early impressions of Beta and of the very strong outstanding upperclassmen: Tom Sanders '66 (who later became Bill's Big Brother), John Richards '66, Dick Gustely '67 (deceased), John Eufinger '68 (a football player who still lives in his hometown of Marysville, where he has a career in law) and Rich Amendola '67, just to name a few. "These were outstanding men, men who gave much to Beta and to the brothers, and it is with fond memories that I recall these experiences in the Beta house. In fact, the best thing about the fraternity was living in the house."

The new Beta house had only been opened two or three years before Bill arrived. "The house was beautiful, and we treated it

with pride. Oh, we did our share of horseplay, but we always had respect for the house, and we knew the meaning of cleanup with spit and polish — and recognized that treating the house as our own home was a commitment we each shared." The house holds many fond memories for Bill "... just



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Bill Rowland '68

living in the house, having some great guys to be a part of your life and enjoying many happy memories of cards, ping pong, pool and a few hours of television ... not to forget the hours of hitting the books. Singing fraternity songs was still somewhat popular, although the '60s were probably the time when singing was on the decline — and in fact, never has returned to play the role in fraternity life it had played in the previous several decades."

Mama Linn, housemother from the '30s through the early '60s, had retired before Bill's arrival, and her place had been filled by "mom" Stewart who lived in the Beta house apartment while looking after her "boys."

"We had over 80 in the house and of the 35 in our pledge class, 33 were initiated," said Bill with a proud smile. "What a great bunch ... and I still have strong relationships with many, including Chuck Underwood, Marty Haskell, John "B", Larry Plum and Don Cooper to name a few. There was always something to do, and always someone who was willing to do it with you ... we had a very diversified group and that was a very rounding part of our experience in the house."

Bill was kitchen steward for two years, but spent most of his few moments of spare time playing varsity basketball, lettering in his

Continued, next page.

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FROM PAGE 1:

WILLIAM "BILL" ROWLAND '68, ROLL #1138

junior and senior years. During his freshman year he played on the junior varsity basketball team when Barry Cleamons, a senior, was starring for the varsity. Barry earned honors for himself and OWU as Little All-American and later played in the NBA for the Knicks, Bulls and Cavs. His varsity sports experiences were under basketball coach Frank Shannon and Bob Strymer as athletic director.

CAMPUS LIFE

Outstanding faculty during Bill's years at OWU included professors Grimes and Woltemonty (economics), Stanley (math) and, of course, Ruth Davies (English), all of whom left lasting impressions on their students.

The MUB was a very busy student union and became the center for social gatherings along with a couple of local spots, including The Brown Jug, which was still located on Sandusky Street across from C.J. Wilson's (of course). The MUB, fraternities and sororities were the center of students' social life; about 65 percent of the student body were Greek.

"We still had freshmen dinks, mandatory chapel, a fine theater series and wonderful programs in Gray Chapel, including big bands, musical concerts and outstanding speakers, such as Mayor Sensenbrenner of Columbus, who made a special impression on Bill.

CAREER

Following graduation from OWU with cum laude honors, Bill received his MBA from Wharton in 1971. He then served Bank One Trust for five years as investor officer and five years with Physician Insurance Co. of Ohio as vice president and treasurer. He then moved on to Midland Mutual Life Insurance as vice president and chief investment officer. Bill took his current position in 1993 with Microcom Corporation, where he serves as president and CEO. Microcom Corporation, founded in 1982, is a manufacturer of direct thermal and thermal transfer printers located about five miles north of Worthington's intersection of I-270 and State Route #23.

BETA ALUMNI

Bill has one of the longest periods of service of any of our alumni (other than Bob Mauck '48 perhaps) on the Theta House Corporation, having served several times as its president since becoming active in 1973. Most recently, he was president in the '90s until 1997. Bill has been loyal to Theta chapter during his 25 years on the House Corporation, serving during periods of undergraduate greatness as well as during several years of great difficulty. It was during Bill's leadership that the difficulties of the house in the '80s were faced; the chapter had fallen to some very low points. Bill praised Bob Mauck '48, Stan Van Buren '52 and Bob Wyant '50 for their help with the recovery of the chapter. Don Bishop from the OWU faculty was activated and helped in many ways, plus Bill received outstanding support from Beta national officials, including Vice President Pete Barnhart and Canaral Sacratary Huma Morrie The charter was never

suspended, but it was placed into a state of "transition," and into the hands of the alumni during that period. The charter for Theta remained intact and was never "pulled," so we still have a continuous chapter at OWU dating back to 1853 and will be able to have our 150th celebration in the year 2003. "We had four underclassmen — that was all — and with that nucleus and the help of many, we returned the chapter to life and have seen it grow back to the proud chapter it is today," Bill recalled with justifiable pride.

FAMILY

Bill has a daughter, Christy, an OWU grad from the class of '95, and two sons, Dan, a junior at Emory University (Phi Delta Theta) and Mike, a sophomore at Bexley High School.

ADDRESS

Bill's address will soon change as he will be moving to a new home on 14 acres located a little north of Sunbury. There he will be joined by his soon-to-be bride, Dee Dee Scott, whom he met at the Golf Club of Groveport. Bill can be reached at his Microcom office, 614-548-6262, or you can send e-mail to browland@microcomcorp.com. His current street address is 15518 Olive Green Rd., Centerberg, OH 43011; phone, 740-625-5034.

SALUTE

Bill Rowland represents the best of the Theta chapter alumni. He is a loyal supporter, an active officer, a member of the House Corporation and a brother who can be counted on when the chips are down. Others have always depended on his strength to support their needs. It is because of Bill Rowland that Theta chapter is today the proud group of young men whom we take great pride in calling brothers, and we all — alumni and undergrads alike — say to you, Billy R, THANK GOD YOU'RE A BETA."

Beta Brothers: (left to right) Tom Gillaugh, Dartmough '46, Dow Finsterwald '52, OSU, and Tom Tatham, OWU '56, at the Bay Hill Country Club, Arnold Palmer's course in Orlando, Fla. Dow was named the "All-Time Best" from among all Beta golfers in the spring issue of the national Beta Theta Pi magazine. This photo was taken

during a
winter
golfing
racation
shared by
Tom
Tatham
and Tom
Gillaugh,
Dayton
neighbors
and golfing
partners.



The Theta Data

A MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENT W. MARTIN HASKELL '68

Dear Theta Brothers,

This has been a good year for the Theta chapter. We started the year with 24 good men and have added nine initiates and one returning undergraduate brother during the year. We expect eight to graduate this spring and 26 to return in the fall — near capacity. These numbers have provided financial stability for house operations.

The projects of the last three years and some one-time bookkeeping adjustments by the university had depleted our cash. We began the year with less than \$1,000 in our account, but we should end this year with \$20,000 in reserves. Even so, we have managed to purchase new equipment for the kitchen and a new pool table, and to complete some much-needed face lifting to various areas of the house. This summer we will begin to redecorate and add furniture to the living room.

The biggest change has been the release of our cook, interim use of a food service and the hiring of a well-qualified chef. Besides putting out great meals, Chef Lawrence has proven to be a capable kitchen manager, keeping our cost well within budget. The House Corporation has settled into a pattern of regular meetings (three per year) and division of labor with various alumni accepting advisory roles that roughly parallel the undergraduate chapter jobs and positions.

The result has been a lot of communication between the undergraduate chapter and alumni and a very good working relationship. The combined House Corporation meeting, initiation ceremony, Fraternal Fifties ceremony and alumnihosted initiation banquet was a great success and clearly demonstrated a continuity and bond of brotherhood across the generations.

Our House Corporation meetings are open to all and will be held on Fallfest Weekend, October 31, 1998, at 10 a.m. House Corporation meetings will be scheduled at these other events: Initiation Weekend and either graduation day or alumni weekend. Please come join us.

Stop in and meet the great bunch of guys who dare call themselves Betas now!

Annual Alumni Contributions

Annual alumni contributions are the lifeblood of our continued communications with all alumni brothers ... and we have more than 800 living alumni. Fortunately, through the generosity of more than 100 brothers who contributed in 1996-97, we have seen continued growth in the number of contributors as well as the average gift per contributor. If you have not sent in your contribution for 1997-98 yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Our *Theta Data* publications are solely dependent on these gifts. Recent history and current year giving are shown below:

| Year | Total | % Increase | #Contributors | % Increase |
|---------|---------|------------|---------------|------------|
| 1990-91 | \$3,245 | | 72 | |
| 1991-92 | 4,350 | 34.1% | 95 | 31.9% |
| 1992-93 | 3,440 | -20.9% | 84 | - 11.6% |
| 1993-94 | 3,947 | 14.7% | 90 | 7.1% |
| 1994-95 | 4,081 | 3.4% | 101 | 12.2% |
| 1995-96 | 5,330 | 30.6% | 118 | 16.8% |
| 1996-97 | 6,702 | 25.7% | 129 | 9.3% |
| 1997-98 | *6,505 | | 90 | |

^{*}Through 5/26/98

Needless to say, the growth we have experienced is gratifying and demonstrates the strength of our fraternity. While support this year is up in terms of both total dollars and average gift per donor, more than 90 percent of our alumni still have not yet given ... and of those brothers who gave last year, only half have given this year. Please take an extra moment and send a contribution today to keep the alumni communications programs intact ... and a special "thank you" to the 90 contributors who have given early this year through May 26, 1998.

The Theta Data is published for the members and friends of the Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at Ohio Wedeyan University. Address changes, news items and photographs are always welcome and may be sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to Alumni Records Office, Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, P.O. Box 361303, Columbus, OH 43236-1303.

FRATERNAL FIFTIES MEMORIES SEE ARTICLE, NEXT PAGE.



(l-r) Byron Shephard '47, Nancy Billman, Barbara Shepard



New initiates were also honored at the Fraternal Fifties celebration on March 21.



Front (l-r) Don Wedge '51 and Tom Faranay '49. Back (l-r) Byron Shepard '47, Bob Billman '51, Tom Long '51 and Bob Wyant '50

INITIATION AND FRATERNAL FIFTIES CEREMONIES HELD IN MARCH

By Tom Tatham '56

Saturday, March 21, 1998, was an outstanding and memorable day for Theta Chapter.

At noon, the House Corporation met with 20 alumni, undergraduates, chapter officers and committee chairs. Alumni President Marty Haskell '68 reported that the chapter has reached its strongest point in many years, noting more alumni support, a solid freshman pledge class and improved financial stability for house operations. Marty gave special thanks to Mike Dowgiewicz '98 and his brother officers for their great leadership in maintaining high academic and social standards for the two years they have been in leadership positions.

Mid-afternoon ceremonies were held initiating nine new brothers (see Page 6).

By late afternoon, special ceremonies, highlighted by the passing and singing of The Loving Cup, were conducted recognizing all of those who recently reached the 50th anniversary of their initiation into Theta chapter. Seven alumni brothers were able to attend and receive their special recognition: Byron Shepard '44, #748 (initiation year and Theta chapter roll number); Robert Fenwick '45, #763; Thomas Farahay '46, #778; Bob Wyant '47, #807; Thomas Long '48, #811; Donald Wedge '48, #819; and Bob Billman '48, #821. Unable to make it due to bad weather, but represented by his grandson Jeremy Wiechel '99, was Robert Richards '47, #795. Spouses Barbara Shepard and Nancy Billman also attended.

Following these ceremonies, undergraduates escorted lovely OWU coeds (new initiates were surprised with OWU coed dates prearranged by upperclassmen). A wonderful dinner was held at the house, featuring a large ice carving of the Beta Dragon surrounded by shrimp, cheese and other hors d'oeuvres and followed by an outstanding banquet served by the new chef, Lawrence. Mixed with a little singing by the undergrads, with special musical renditions by the new initiates, everyone had a great evening.

Theta House Corporation looks forward to even larger alumni events, which will be targeted each year at these annual ceremonies. We will increase our effort to publicize these outstanding opportunities for alumni to return to the campus.

FALLFEST UPDATE • OCTOBER 30-31

Alumni Gathering Planned

By Dick Devos '54

Theta Chapter is planning an alumni get-together on Fallfest Weekend similar to the one we had in 1996. This time we will not make the aggressive mailing that we did then because of the costs involved. Also, we will use the chapter house for our dinners and fellowship. Our chef, who is very good, will prepare a special dinner on Saturday night. This also will give parents of the undergraduates a chance to participate in that venue.

We hope that a number of you will take the opportunity to return to see old friends and make new ones. There will be a house company meeting on Saturday before the football game.

We are not reserving a block of rooms this time, but have listed below the names of local hotels/motels for your convenience. We suggest that you make your reservations early. If you are thinking of returning for Fallfest, please give me a call just so we can get a rough count. Hope to see you in October!

Yours in -kai-

Dick Devos '54 (440-835-1546)

NEARBY HOTELS/MOTELS

Delaware (area code 740)

The Campbell House, 363-1143 • The Delaware Hotel, 363-1262 Hampton Inn, 800-HAMPTON • Long View Farm B&B, 362-0387 Super 8, 800-800-8000 • Travel Lodge, 369-4421 Van Deman House, 363-2963

Worthington (area code 614)

Courtyard by Marriott, 800-321-2211
Holiday Inn at Crosswoods, 885-3334
Homewood Suites, 785-0001 • Microtel, 436-0556
Clarion Hotel, 436-0700 • Red Roof Inn, 846-3001
Sheraton Suites, 436-0004 • Worthington Inn, 885-2600

UNDERGRADUATES WELCOME ALUMNI BACK

Tentative Fallfest Schedule of Events (All events at the House unless otherwise indicated.)

Friday, October 30 6:00 p.m. - Informal Gathering/Pizza Night

Saturday, October 31
10:00 a.m. ~ House Corporation Meeting
1:00 p.m. ~ OWU vs Allegheny College at Selby Stadium
4-6 p.m. ~ Cocktail Party
6:00 p.m. ~ Alumni Banquet (\$15/person)

Watch your mail this summer for full details!

A DIFFERENT KIND OF HOLIDAY

By Andrew Panagotopulos '01

Seven brothers drove to Columbus early one Saturday morning to help repair houses for the less fortunate in the Christmas in April program. Christmas in April is a national program that helps people in several different cities across the United States. Driving to the house, I didn't know what to expect. I wondered what kind of work we were going to have to do or what kind of people we were going to work with. When we first arrived, we immediately started working, moving excess debris out of the yard. Throughout the day, we worked hard cleaning up the yard, scraping paint off the house and painting the house. When we first began working, everyone was silent and just tried working as well as they could together. But after a while conversation picked up, and everyone realized just how special the Christmas in April program was. We had all come from different backgrounds and probably would have never had a chance to work together and talk. There were parents working with their kids, people right out of college trying to find more meaning in their lives, a grandfather and seven Betas. Yet we were all willing to work on a house of someone whom we had never met. As the day went on, I felt as if I had been working with everyone for my entire life. We were all laughing, having a good time and helping each other out for an even greater cause than we thought. The gratitude of the owner of the house was what made all the hard work worth while and made everyone work harder. To see how happy the widowed woman was at every little improvement of her house is an expression I will remember the rest of my life. Christmas in April brought me closer not only to the Betas on the trip but also to the other volunteers whose time was more valuable than mine - and of course, to the owner of the house, who may have given more back to the volunteers than we gave to her. This experience is an example of the true Beta spirit in its purest sense.

COREY SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

The editor wishes to extend to Bob Corey '54 the sympathy of all brothers of Theta chapter upon learning of the recent passing of his wife, Ann Foster Corey, OWU '54. In her memory, Bob has established a scholarship fund in Education at Ohio Weslevan University. Those interested in contributing may do so by sending their contributions to Ohio Wesleyan University, c/o the Ann Foster Corey Scholarship Fund, Attention: Terence Corkerton, Delaware, OH 43015.

Bob has expressed his deep appreciation to all the brothers he has heard from and how much the support of the brothers has been to him. Bob's address is: 9409 Slate Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134.

A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION

By Eric Eickhoff '00

On March 21, the Theta chapter held ceremonies for two very different but important groups of Theta Betas. In the early afternoon, the chapter initiated nine members into the halls of Beta Theta Pi. These new members had gone through a pledging period where they had learned about the lore of the Theta chapter and of the fraternity, the songs of Beta Theta Pi, and about the men of the chapter whom they would soon call Brother. The initiation ceremony brought tears of joy to the newly initiated, the undergraduates, and the numerous alumni who joined the chapter for that solemn occasion.

Following the initiation, the chapter honored its second group of the day, the Theta Betas who were initiated 50 years ago. For these Fraternal Fifties brothers the ceremony had been a long time coming, but it was well worth the wait. The men were honored in front of the brothers of the chapter, both undergraduates and alumni, and many friends of the fraternity at Ohio Wesleyan. Along with the ceremony, the honored received Fraternal Fifty pins and a gold sticker to be placed on their shingle. After the ceremony, we held a formal dinner party honoring the newly initiated and the Fraternal Fifties brothers. They were treated to an excellent meal prepared by the house chef and to conversations among the different generations of Theta Betas. The hit of the evening was a brotherly singing competition, pitting the Pledge Class of 1997 against the newly initiated Pledge Class of 1998, as they sang the songs of Beta Theta Pi. There was no real winner in the competition, but the guests and brothers in attendance loved the enthusiasm the brothers showed in their singing.



The March House Corporation Meeting was attended by (facing camera, left to right) Marty Haskell '60, Tom Tatham '56, Bob Wyant '50, Brad Chelton '98 and Mike Dowgiewicz '98. With his back to the camera is Bill Rowland '68.

THETA DATA EDITORIAL STAFF

Brad Chelton '98 Eric Eickhoff '00 Andrew Panagotopulos '01 Dan Rich '55

Dick DeVos '54 Jack Hahn '55

Michael Dowgiewicz '98 W. Martin Haskell '68 Tom Tatham '56

Note: We need representation from the '70s and '80s. Please consider and volunteer!

U M N Ι O A R

Spring 1998 Chapter Officers

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Matt S. Doman '00
Bowie, Md.
History

VICE PRESIDENT Josh H. Pretzer '99 Vermilion, Ohio Biology/Chemistry

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Avon Lake, Ohio
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Studies

Co-ALUMNI CHAIR Eric J. Eickhoff '00 Pepper Pike, Ohio History

House Manager Shawn H. Starlin '00 Wooster, Ohio Urban Studies

Spring 1998 Initiates

Jeffrey G. Beaudry '01 Homewood, Ill. Joel A. Burke '01 Orlando, Fla. John M. Byrnes III '01 Stony Brook, N.Y. Timothy P. England '01 Indianapolis, Ind. Jeffrey B. Gallo '01 Chagrin Falls, Ohio John A. Losito '00 Avondale, Pa. Andrew L. Panxgotopulos '01 Walpole, Mass. Carsten D. Vogel '00 Honolulu, Hawaii Adam J. White '01 Portsmouth, Ohio

ULUMINI NEWS

William B. Pickering Jr. '34 (760 Harley Dr., Columbus, OH 43202) exchanges tapes with Watson Parker '33 (Parkvue Pl. #212, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky, OH 44870). Bill writes that he got four holes in one at The Ohio State University golf course.

William J. West '39, a semiretired orthopedic surgeon, lives at 865 Lincoln Wood Ct., Dayton, OH 45429.

"On the occasion of our 55th class reunion in May 1997, I again met Margery Leach, also a member of our class of 1942. We renewed our relationship of college days resulting in our marriage in September 1997," reports Harold T. Leuliette *42 (3757B Malibu Ct., Beavercreek, OH 45431).

Robert C. Richards '50 (266 Woodlawn Dr., Tipp City, OH 45371) is in good company with family members who followed his lead. Nephew Jon C. Richards '66, son Robert D. Richards '76, and grandson Jeremy Wiechel '99 are also members of the fraternity.

James E. Wyant '50 (3380 Tschopp Rd. N.E., R.R. 1, Lancaster, OH 43130) is retired as senior vice president of The Savings Bank. "I enjoy every second of retirement. I do exactly what I want to — when I want to!"

Retired from the United Nations, Jack B. Carmichael '59 (519 S. Rogers St., Mason, MI 48854; Jack.Carmichael2@gte.net) is serving his third term as president of Greater Lansing Investments.

Paul D. Hammersten '69 (P.O. Box 69, West Chatham, MA 02669) extends greetings and invites brothers to visit his new website to see his art. When he wrote in February, he was busy with his show, "The Trail of Beauty," at The Gallery at C3TV. Paul's website address is: http://www.capecod.net/epl/hammersten.html

"Lots of good laughs, stories, and beer, not to mention a LOT of candles, highlighted the evening," reports Stephen C. Sherwood '70 (10221 Quiet Pond Ter., Burke, VA 22015) regarding the surprise 50th birthday for John Willoughby '70 in January 1998. Also in attendance were Rick Hursh '70 and Terry O'Hara '71.

James C. Kole '94 (7 Ann Mar Ln., Simsbury, CT 06070; jck24@columbia.edu) is working on a master's degree in counseling psychology at Teachers College Columbia University in New York City. "J.C." had just returned from a trip to Ecuador, South America, when he wrote in February. Matthew D. Nesto '86 now resides at 35 Dennison St., Gloucester, MA 01930.

The new mailing address for James A. Day '89 is P.O. Box 40534, San Diego, CA 92164.

OF EVER HONORED MEMORY

Since publication of our last issue, we have learned of the death of Frederick W. Kamin '31 (12/6/97) and Melvin J. Trumble '62 (5/7/98).

Beta Theta Pi mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

Melvin "Mel" J. Trumble II '62 died suddenly of a heart attack on May 7, 1998. On the day of his death, he had driven to Indianapolis, Ind., from Columbus, Ohio, on business when he suffered an apparent heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Linda, several children and grandchildren. Mel resided at 3962 Applewood Lane, Kettering, OH 45429, at the time of his death. Mel was an avid golfer and was a member of the Dayton Country Club, where his smile always welcomed the editor early every Saturday and Sunday morning for his regular round of golf. He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends as well as his Beta brothers.

Letters to the Editor

"Dear Tom: This is a voice from the ancient past. I want to thank you for the feature article you authored on my brotherin-law, Bob Mauck, in our Beta newsletter. It was very well done on a very deserving subject.

We also appreciate the photo you included of my brothers and me with our father. Incidentally, he was also a Theta Beta, Class of '21.

This publication is doing an increasingly better job of keeping we alums attached to our fraternity and alma mater. Thanks so much for your personal contribution in making this a reality." — Bill Long, 7/11/97 "I was disappointed the Theta house was not available to alumni during Alumni Weekend, May 16-18, 1997. This was my 55th Class Reunion and I was looking forward to visiting the chapter house. Other fraternities on the campus were available to alumni." — Don Korn, 4/98