

Indiana chapter house dedicated

A few months later, on May 11, another new chapter house accommodating 56 members was dedicated at Indiana University. Not since the 1920s had two houses been dedicated within the same year. The ceremony took place on the front porch of the new facility just six years after the establishment of the chapter. Included in those gathered for the ceremony were members from nearby Midwest chapters, many alumni from the Indiana area, and the members of Iota Delta.



Herman Krannert of Sigma helped provide the Indiana chapter house.

Brief congratulatory messages were delivered by the National Director, Maynard Andrea *Alpha-Tau '32*, regional representative for the Mid-West zone, and I. B. Countryman who had been so instrumental in sponsoring the colony and the chapter. John Craft *Iota Delta '60*, president of the Indiana Chi Phi Alumni association, culminated the formal ceremonies surrounding the dedication by presenting a plaque, commemorating the event, to Alpha

Robert Helt *Iota Delta '63*. The plaque, which is mounted in the chapter house reads:

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS:

John R. Berry *Sigma '31*, Chi Phi Club of Cincinnati, Chi Phi Educational Trust, Donald G. Coffey *Iota Delta '59*, Irving B. Countryman *Sigma '17*, *Iota Delta '58*, John D. Craft *Iota Delta '60*, Gayl W. Doster *Iota Delta '60*, Thomas A. Gehring, *Iota Delta '60*, Carl J. Gladfelter, *Alpha-Tau '33*, Calvin S. Hamilton *Sigma '49*, James B. Hill *Iota Delta '60*, Clifford F. Hood *Sigma '15*, Kappa of Chi Phi Alumni association, Herman C. Krannert *Sigma '12*, John E. Oliver *Eta '15*, Robert E. Secor *Kappa '35 Iota Delta '58*, Arthur G. Wupper *Sigma '27*.

Therefore, now that the construction is completed on this new home of the Iota Delta chapter, the Indiana Chi Phi Alumni association Inc., as owners of this property, now formally places the trusteeship of this chapter house in the hands of the undergraduates of the Iota Delta chapter. May the chapter always do everything in its power to preserve, maintain, and enrich not only this new physical property, but also the fraternal spirit through which this chapter house had become a reality.

The new chapter house could not have been achieved in such a short time were it not for a gift of \$15,000 from Herman Krannert *Sigma '12*. Brother Krannert, a founding member of Sigma and president of Inland Container Corporation of Indianapolis, endeavored to give a gift directly to Indiana University to be used on behalf of the chapter. However, for legal reasons the details could not be finalized. At that point John

E. Oliver, chairman of the Chi Phi Educational Trust, the National Director and Bates Block, counsel to the trust, devised a plan whereby the gift could be accepted by the Trust and used for the benefit of the building program.

Likewise, Indiana University, through its housing program for fraternities and sororities, was able to assist the alumni association in securing a first mortgage from the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. Three alumni who were leaders in establishing the colony in 1956, I. B. Countryman, Robert Secor and Arthur Wupper, were also directly involved and freely gave their time and funds to the project.

Countryman led the fund raising program. Wupper, an architect, designed and prepared specifications for the building and donated a major portion of his fee to the building fund. Secor, a CPA, handled the funds and budget, and assisted Countryman. Among the younger alumni, Craft and Doster, only three years out of school, were key players in helping to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

At the point in time when two Chi Phi chapters moved into new homes within a few months of one another, the fraternity movement and some of their sheltering institutions were experiencing serious problems. Indiana's dean of students, Robert H. Shaffer, delivered an address at the banquet following the dedication of the Iota Delta house which sharply focused attention to the changes that had and were taking place in American society and in particular the academic community.

Dean Shaffer's timeless advice

Dean Shaffer's remarks were made in 1964 although they could have been made in 1987. In part he said,

"Because of the terribly complex problems of the time, ranging all the way from nuclear testing to early marriage to race relations, young men and women need all the guidance and support mature people can provide."

He concluded his remarks with, "Clearly the changes I have outlined will not just happen: they must be planned and directed. The present college generation has come through a period of schooling in life in which they have been led to believe that their wishes, their standards, even their whims, are the controlling forces in their lives, regardless of conflicts with mores, customs or traditions, adult standards of time proven values.

"The situation requires more leadership and direction from the national office, from fraternity alumni, and university officials in cooperation with local chapter officers. It is not sufficient for us to say that we will work with the leaders and hope that they can correct the situation. It is certainly nothing but negligence and defeatism for us to say, 'actives don't want it: the informal age, you know.' "

Changes were recommended by Shaffer: "Tonight in observing the formal dedication of a chapter house we are really commemorating a material symbol of the fraternal progress of your chapter on this campus.

Beautiful new houses are nice, of course, but they should not be confused with the truly significant aspect of the modern fraternity.

"It is popular these days to predict the demise of the fraternity movement. People making these predictions usually write as if the death of fraternities would have no relationship to the future of quality education in our colleges and universities or even to American life.

"The question of whether fraternities and sororities will survive or not is much broader than merely the continued existence of chapters on various campuses. It is one of the survival of idealistic and spiritually-oriented institutions in a chaotic and confused world.

"I am not speaking as a starry-eyed old grad tonight, I am speaking as an educator and citizen concerned with current trends towards mediocrity, anonymity, superficiality, materiality, and impersonality on our campuses and in our society. I probably know the evils and defects of fraternities as well as anyone. In my work, unfortunately, I constantly meet and observe problems caused by some fraternity activities and weaknesses.

"However, also in my work I constantly meet problems caused by the impersonality of growing campuses, the mediocre aspirations of the mass of students, the anonymity and loneliness caused by fleeting and casual personal relationships, the lack of brotherhood among individuals, and the narrow vocational orientation of so many young people in the critical, formative years of their lives.

"Is there a person who can doubt the worth of an enterprise dedicated to brotherhood in a world crying out for brotherhood and love as dominant forces in our lives?

"Is there a person who can doubt the need on our campuses of an organization whose purpose it is to bind students of like ideals together so that they mutually encourage each other to the highest possible achievement of which they are capable?

"Is there a person who can doubt the need on the same campuses for a personalizing influence which will establish strong bonds of identity with the institution so that all have a strong feeling of responsibility for its success?

"Finally, is there a person who can look at the decline of individuality and self-responsibility in our society and then doubt the need for self-governing groups composed of individuals who voluntarily assume responsibilities and ideals which provide clear guideposts in the conduct of their personal lives?

"The present day campus is a far different place than it was even 15 years ago. Yet too many of our fraternities are trying to do business as usual.

"Current problems facing undergraduate members require an aggressive, co-operative endeavor based on mutual trust and confidence on the part of alumni, national officers, chapter officers, active members, and university officials. Informed leaders seem to be unanimous in recognizing needed directions of the active chapter.

"I will merely mention the first needed step. This is the substitution of positive, intellectually-oriented activities for the traditional, superficial, time-wasting ones. The days of horseplay, hazing, and juvenile behavior are gone.

"A second needed direction is the more careful, effective interpretation of the true meaning of fraternity to pledges and new actives. We are so eager sometimes to get some pledges to fill these houses that we don't even impress upon the pledge the obligations he is assuming or what group he is really joining: its structure and its weak points. The blueprint of the future of the college fraternity is very simple. It is a blank sheet of paper. If, however, we can and do work together to bring about the program and secure the contributions we have discussed here today, the blueprint is one of an awe inspiring and thrilling cathedral whose values and ideals will be recognized from coast to coast and whose reflection will be seen in the lives of countless men and women."