



SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF GREEK HOUSING

NEWSLETTER

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**Left to right—Rees, Lovett, Holstman, unknown scout, P. Barker,
Greenwood, Vail, Mitchell**

Here they are—Beta Upsilon's bunch at the Karnea in Boston, August, 1919. Yes, the picture is belated, but it's worth waiting for, isn't it? The boys say that Perry Barker was a perfect host. The Old Hound looks as young as he was when he used to bay at the sun in the sky parlor at 410 E. Green. The slender gent next to the venerable canine is Paul Greenwood. The tall gent with the large cheaters is one Fred Holstman—if you never heard him sing "Honey" in the flickering shadows around the fire, you've really never lived.

What's new with the Greek Housing History Project?

Here's a plan for you, the SPGH members who haven't seen your name mentioned in conjunction with the GHHP yet: scour your chapter house, phone local alumni, annoy the national office, looking for records of the doings of your past brothers and sisters. Make it a semester-long project. Donate the records to the U of I's Student Life and Culture Archives. Ensure the safety of *your* history from heat and water, time and vermin. Your past and future brothers and sisters will thank you.

Right now my efforts are focused on finishing the research for the Delta Tau Delta history, and a draft will see the light of day in time for the February Society meeting. My progress here has been speeded considerably by the aid of DTD Chapter Advisor Matt Wilson, and by interviews with helpful local alumni—who take great care to inform me of the tid-bits which are safe to publish. FarmHouse is now publishing an attractive bound version of their chapter history. Kudos to FarmHouse and DTD for their enthusiasm and assistance—they have set the bar high for future history subjects!

SPGH Dues

Dues notices for 2001 will be mailed out shortly. If your organization has been a member in good standing for five **consecutive** years, your dues will be \$150 annually as long as you continue to be a member who pays dues each year. We thank all of you who have been members in good standing for several years now for your prompt payments and your support of SPGH.

Did you know....



During the Great Depression, many fraternities and sororities at the University of Illinois closed for financial reasons. Dean of Women Maria Leonard responded to the problem by having sororities that rented their homes rush and then move into sororities that paid mortgages. In this way, the mortgaged houses would not be lost. Kathryn G. Hansen '34, a member of Alpha Delta Theta, remembers the process well:

"Many of [the sororities] closed except those Wright Street ones. They had us move into these other houses, because they were half empty, and they gave us housing in these other houses. That's what Dean Maria Leonard did. I remember when we were going to close and we went through like a rushing party, and we went around to these other houses to see which ones we wanted to live in. That's when we chose Phi Mu."

Although the Alpha Delta Theta sisters moved into the Phi Mu house, they retained their identity as a separate group: *"We had four rooms on the first floor and Mrs. Hale was our house mother and her room was right across from us and she really got closer to us than she did her own girls. We had our own area in the dining room and we ate together and we stayed together. We got along fine. We were helping keep [Phi Mu] open. Then it just happened that later on we merged nationally. It was nothing to do with us here locally, it was just a happenstance. That's what we did. Miss Leonard arranged all of that. Try and keep solvent!"*

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Benefits of Membership in SPGH

1. Ability to raise tax-deductible funds from your alumni for qualified restoration/renovation projects. The Society may provide grants for:
 - A. Health and safety code requirements that do not result in the loss of character-defining spaces, features and finishes
 - B. Major structural rehabilitation or restoration
 - C. Exterior rehabilitation or restoration
 - D. Interior restoration or rehabilitation.

In this regard grants could be given for; sprinkler and alarm systems, bathroom renovations, kitchen fire-suppression equipment, heating system renovations, enclosed- egress stairways, porch and patio renovation or restoration.

2. Help with archiving chapterhouse blueprints and drawings.
3. Reduced costs of research and application for National Register of Historic Places status for your chapter house.
4. Networking with concerned alumni and university administrators dedicated to preserving Greek life on your campus.

Rules SPGH Must Follow- "Standards for Rehabilitation"

All SPGH preservation grant applications will be judged with reference to the Secretary of the Interior's "*Standards for Rehabilitation*" (36 C FR 67).

Rehabilitation is defined as the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to it's historic, architectural and cultural values. The Society can provide you with a copy of the standards if you request them.

In meeting the ten standards set forth by the Secretary of the Interior, the Society will give consideration to the following priority of preserving options:

- A. Identifying, retaining and preserving the functional and decorative features that are important in defining the overall historic character of the building.
- B. Protecting and maintaining features through appropriate surface treatments such as cleaning, rust removal, limited paint removal, and re-application of protective coating systems.
- C. Evaluating the overall condition of materials to determine whether more than protection and maintenance are required, that is, if repairs to the features will be necessary.
- D. Repairing features by patching, piecing-in, consolidating or otherwise reinforcing the features using recognized preservation methods. Repair may also include the limited replacement in kind, or with compatible substitute materials, of those extensively deteriorated or missing parts of features where there are surviving prototypes.

(Did You Know...)

Kathryn Hansen's memories are part of the Student Life and Culture Archives' oral history project on "UI Student Life, 1928-38." To learn more about the experiences of Ms. Hansen and other UI students from the period visit the "oral history interview" web pages on the Student Life and Culture Archives' web site:

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/slc>

If you or someone you know graduated from UI between the years 1928-38, and would be interested in participating in the project, please contact: Ellen Swain, Archivist for Student Life/Culture, phone 217/333-7841, email: eswain@uiuc.edu

- E. Replacing in kind an entire feature that is too deteriorated to repair-if the overall form and detailing are still evident to guide the new work. If using the same kind of materials is not technically or economically feasible, then a compatible substitute may be considered.
- F. Designing and installing new features when historic features are completely missing. The replacement features may be an accurate restoration using historical, pictorial and physical documentation; or be a new design that is compatible with the historic character of the building, district or neighborhood.
- G. Alterations or additions should be compatible with the overall design of the building, inconspicuous from the public right-of-way, designed not to damage or obscure character-defining features, and, done in a manner that makes clear what is historic and what is not and is new.



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