

The house in December of 1928 — “We had lots of snow — and great cars — back then,” writes Frank Dedman, '29-159. See page 2 for the photo of Fred Winters that Frank sent.

### Donations and Elbow Grease Work Wonders

Hello, alumni! As you already know, the guys here at Sigma Chapter have gone through some tough times with the reorganization of the chapter. All went well, and the chapter is slowly picking up steam again. We had 20 members return this fall, with 13 of those living in the house, and rush and the subsequent initiation have brought us 10 more members and the promise of two more.

We started off the year with an alumni work weekend to get the house looking sharp before rush week. We had a lot of support and got plenty done. We remodeled the second-deck bathroom by getting new countertops, new stalls, and new ceiling tiles. We also painted the house's interior and got the carpets professionally cleaned. And some light remodeling was done on the women's bathroom downstairs.

As you might expect, the chapter house looks much better than it did before — especially the second-deck bathroom — and this is largely due to generous donations of time and money. We thank alumni and parents for the donations that made the second-deck-bathroom refurbishment possible. Thanks also go to our parents for putting effort and money into updating the

women's bathroom! All of us here greatly appreciate the outstanding generosity of our parents and alumni!

Some of the goals we have for the future are to get a new phone system and chapter computers that have Internet and E-mail capability. We would also like to get new mattresses and redo the flooring on the sleeping porch. We currently have no chapter phones working because the phone lines and phones have deteriorated over the years. We think these additions of up-to-date technology would significantly enhance our rush capability.

All is going great here at Theta Chi, and I hope all is going great for you guys, too. I can't say enough about how much I appreciate your donations and support for our chapter, especially in this time of need. If you would like to be more involved or would just like to see how the chapter is doing, please don't hesitate to call me or one of the alumni below, both of whom have helped Sigma tremendously. Fraternally, — *Sam Carter, President, 541-752-7598, cartersa@ucs.orst.edu*

Scott DeBo, '90-1249, Alumni President:  
503-691-6248, sdebo@willamette.edu  
Brian Bullock, '85-1145, 1-800-633-5687 (work)

### Alumni Relations Chair Thanks Alumni

Nearing the end of the first term of the year, it is great to look back and see the effects the recent changes have had on the chapter! With renewed support from many of the alumni, things are going well and the future looks bright!

This past October, we celebrated Homecoming '97 in stellar fashion. Nearly 60 alumni attended the weekend's events, which included a sit-down lunch, an alumni board meeting, and OSU football. The undergraduates were really happy to see such a turnout, with men from the 1940s through the 1990s reliving the greatest times that have been had at Sigma Chapter.

We are also happy to see the renewed interest in chapter affairs from so many of you. We hope many more will get in touch and share their

knowledge with us. We hope to have an alumni event in spring 1998, so if you are in the area or want to share your thoughts, come by the house and join us for dinner or chapter. It's always our pleasure to see men who feel the same way about this chapter as we do.

As you read through *The Sigma Tattler*, you will notice our “Goals '98” and our “Wish List.” If you have ideas on how to achieve the goals, or are in a business that could satisfy one of our “wishes,” please contact me at the house at 541-753-2036, or Chapter President Sam Carter, or one of the members of the alumni board.

Once again, thanks for all of your support! We hope to hear from you. In Brotherhood, — *Ryan Oliver, Alumni Relations Chair*

# THE SIGMA TATTLER

FALL 1997

## Alumni President's Message

Brothers of Sigma: Many of you have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the positive events occurring at the chapter house in Corvallis. Theta Chi-Sigma is a chapter of change. A number of nationally publicized events in recent years have changed the face of the Greek system. To survive, many chapters have resolved that they must adapt to compete for pledges as we approach a new millenium. You will find that Sigma Chapter members are committed to this change. The current undergraduate membership includes many of the finest young men ever to walk the halls of Sigma. These members and pledges have overcome adversity and have come out shining. They should be commended for their efforts. Although they still have a ways to go to bring Sigma back up to speed, their commitment to making the fraternity better has laid the groundwork for future brothers.

The alumni are hoping to help facilitate this process of change. With the chapter regaining strength, the alumni board sees a need to help the chapter attract new members. Through an aggressive plan to involve alumni in rush activities and create a fund to improve living conditions at Sigma Chapter, the alumni board hopes to involve as many alumni as are willing to help in creating a chapter for the membership of tomorrow.

The number of incoming students at Oregon State has dropped significantly since the passage of Measure 5 (an income-tax reduction passed in 1990). This is affecting the Greek system as fewer students are committing to rush. To promote the strong points of the Greek system, we hope to develop a grass roots effort by alumni who are willing to speak to incoming students about the advantages of Greek life. We hope to reach as many as 50 Oregon high schools next spring. If you are interested in helping, or would like additional information, please contact me (my phone number and E-mail address are included at the end of this article) or Bryan Bullock. We would appreciate any input or help you can offer.

The second project is designed to help promote Sigma for the next 30 years. Tentatively labeled "Sigma 2000," the plan is to develop a fund in which your donations will be allotted to interior remodeling and restructuring of the current chapter house. Our hope is to raise in excess of \$100,000 for physical improvements, including:

- Computer upgrades and Internet connections
- Remodeling of the second and third decks, including:
  - converting the sleeping porch into additional rooms
  - installing new lighting and new carpets
  - refurbishing the walls and ceilings
  - remodeling the second-deck bathroom
- Remodeling the dining area
- Reconstructing the plumbing system
- Upgrading the phone system with Internet connections

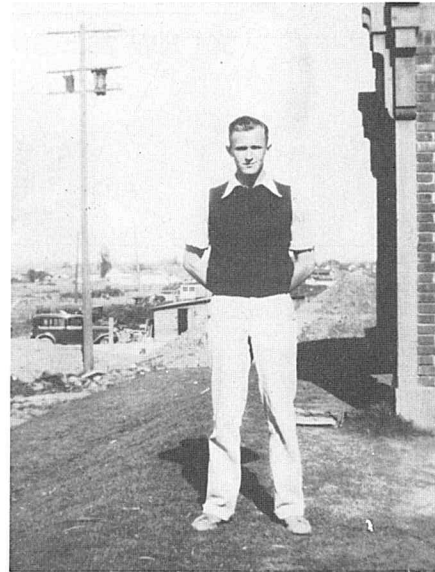
Your donations of time, money, or products are greatly appreciated in our continuing efforts to improve an aging structure. Your help is crucial. Again, I would be happy to answer any questions and would enjoy hearing your comments. Good luck in all your endeavors! Fraternally, — *Scott DeBo, Alumni Corporation President, 503-691-6248, sdebo@willamette.edu*

## Rush Yields Quality Pledges

Gentlemen: I'm sure by now most of you have caught wind of the reorganization that we had last spring. Though we have all been excited about the transformations and the new opportunities for Sigma Chapter, one of the biggest challenges we have been faced with is rush.

I am very pleased to announce that summer '97's rush was a success. We have increased our membership by 10 — now up to 30 undergraduates, 23 of whom are living in. (Informal rush has netted two more, so we'll have 25 live-ins by winter quarter.) More importantly, we are satisfied with the overall quality and potential our new members exhibit.

Goals for rush this year include increasing the chapter size by ten more by the end of spring term. Daniel Buck is the only



**Fred S. Winters, '28-144, in 1929. Thanks to Frank Dedman, '29-159, for sending this and the photo on page 1. For more about Fred, see Frank's "Tattle Tale" on page 4.**

senior who will be leaving us this spring. So, if all goes as planned, we will have close to 40 live-in members to tackle next year's summer rush!

The morale here at Sigma is high, and we are very optimistic about next year's and future rush results. — *Ryan Schuchard, Rush Chairman*

## A Fine Crop of Pledges

This year's freshman class is looking great! We have 11 pledges and more people are still interested in joining. While this number may seem a little low, it is obvious that we have a very high-quality bunch of guys.

Everyone has taken a leadership role of some kind. Each new member is on at least one committee, and many of us hold offices among the freshman class, also. We have already had one very successful function, and I am sure that there will be more to follow. Our new-member education program seems to be going very smoothly.

Jef Atwood is doing a great job as our pledge marshal — he comes to each meeting prepared with an agenda and covers the material with attention to detail, while ensuring understanding.

All of us look forward to initiation, which is only a couple of weeks away. As it gets closer, I am sure things will get more hectic, but that is all part of the fun. Thanks, — *R. Brett Sturgill, Freshman Class President*

## Recent Theta Chi Initiates

September 23, 1997

1423 Ryan Kolby Schuchard ..... Roseburg, OR  
1424 Ian Michael Meyer\* ..... Portland, OR

November 13, 1997

1425 Frederick Raymond Olson ..... Scappoose, OR  
1426 Greg Allen Olsen ..... Sutherlin, OR  
1427 Richmond Brett Sturgill ..... Roseburg, OR  
1428 Brennan Chriss Gibson ..... Springfield, OR  
1429 Jeremy Lee Ryan ..... White City, OR  
1430 Tylor Jason Leinweber ..... Newberg, OR  
1431 Daniel Johannes VanderHave ..... Independence, OR  
1432 Cameron R. Wagner ..... Salem, OR

\*Ian is a transfer from Linfield College. He was initiated there in fall 1995.

### Accomplishments

- Remodeled second-deck bathroom:
  - Installed new countertops
  - Built new bathroom stalls
  - Painted whole bathroom
  - Retailed ceiling
- Painted third-deck bathroom
- Remodeled women's bathroom:
  - Painted whole bathroom
  - Installed new toilet
  - Put molding around walls
- Painted hallways and black trim on:
  - First-deck hallway
  - First-deck stairwells leading to second deck
  - All of second deck and second-deck stairway leading to third deck
  - Third-deck hallway
- Bought lawnmower and edge trimmer for chapter use
- Implemented new risk-management program voted in to by-laws by chapter
- Installed locks on all exterior doors
- Created new Standards Board

These accomplishments were only possible because of the dedication and donations of parents, alumni, and current member live-ins here at Sigma Chapter. We thank you all for your help!

### Goals '98

- Rewrite chapter by-laws (in progress)
- Have 35 guys living in by the end of spring term
- Have a chapter budget consisting of all chapter expenses and individual committee expenses
- Have at least five guys attend the yearly conference in San Antonio this summer
- Obtain chapter advisory board
- Apply for the Alter Award
- Have more guys participate in university and IFC organizations

### Wish List

- Obtain new phone system for house with Internet hookups in each room
- Create computer room and obtain computers for members' use
- Remodel sleeping porch:
  - New flooring
  - New mattresses
- Completely retiling second-deck bathroom
- Obtain speakers for house stereo
- Remodel kitchen cabinets
- Obtain TV for TV room

These are great rush tools. If you can make donations or have ideas on how to accomplish wishes, please contact Sam Carter or Ryan Oliver.

**Raymond E. Gilman, '33-201**, passed away August 2, 1997, in Portland, Oregon, according to **Bob Jensen, '37-240**. Ray resided in Beaverton, Oregon.

**Lawrence M. deLancey, '38-257**, passed away in September 1995, according to his widow, Mary deLancey. Brother deLancey was a resident of Oakley, California.

**George A. Peirson, '41-305**, passed away October 2, 1995, at the age of 73, according to his widow, Mary Jo Peirson. She writes, "My husband was a physician and surgeon who graduated from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1947 with a medical degree. He practiced medicine for 40 years and belonged to many medical societies. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in February of 1993, and George had several enjoyable years of retirement before his death." In addition to his widow, George is survived by two daughters, both married with children.

**Stuart R. Keller, '45-403**, died in October 1996. He resided in McMinnville, Oregon.

**Marion B. Caster, '45-410**, passed away in February 1996. He lived in Medford, Oregon.

**Joseph J. Merchep, '48-495**, passed away March 21, 1996. Joe was a resident of Winston, Oregon.

### Tattle Tales

**Marvin L. Fisher, '26-125**, resides at 415 "P" St., #318, Sacramento, CA 95814; phone: 916-443-5244. Marv has been retired for 29 years. He has two children, Gordon L. Fisher (60) and Sandra K. Fisher Calcagno (56). Marv belongs to SIRS (Sons in Retirement), Sacramento City College Emeriti, and the Senior Citizen Club. He writes, "I gave up golf at age 89. Still ballroom dancing, traveling, and enjoying many other activities like bridge and pinochle. I will be 91 on October 9, 1997."

**Ralph G. Ciliax, '29-151**, enjoys golf — "at 90 years!" He and his wife, Virginia, reside at 1578 Valencia Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104; phone: 626-797-6851. Ralph and Virginia have a son, Donald R. (54).

**Frank W. Dedman, '29-159**, reports, "Heard recently from **Fred Winters, '28-144**. Fred retired from Benjamin Franklin Federal Savings & Loan after 33 years. Enclosed are positives of Fred and the Theta Chi house, both pictures taken in 1929." Frank's photos are on pages 1 and 2. He belongs to the Del Paso Country Club in Sacramento and he enjoys golf and bridge. Frank is a retired pension consultant. He and his wife, Helen (U of OR), have three children — William (57), Margaret (54), and Gail (50) — and reside at 847 Commons Dr., Sacramento, CA 95825; phone: 916-925-3877.

**Curtis C. Tigard, '29-160**, and his wife, Julia, reside at 11778 SW Royal Villa, Tigard, OR 97224; phone: 503-639-8100. They have a son, Dave (59). Curt writes that he has "been a Kiwanian for over 60 years." He and Julia have been married for 56 years. He continues, "For 20 years, we used to go to Arizona and California, but the last few years we have enjoyed Oregon winter. We've lived at the same address for 26 years. [Curt has also been retired from US Bank for 26 years.] Play golf three times a week and shoot my age, mostly! Missed *The Tattler* and like most, don't send money unless asked."

**Oliver W. Miller, '32-185**, writes, "Thank you, thank you for the Summer 1997 *Sigma Tattler*, which included a summary of my career and a photo of the fire screen I made 65 years ago! I was so very pleased to receive and read the newsletter!! My life has been most interesting with world experiences; my active life really started at Sigma, Theta Chi — a big change from my farm-kid's life. I owe much to you! We do hope so much that your (our) chapter can again rise to the top. Warmest fraternal regards!" Colonel Miller resides at 723 Holly Oak Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

**Hollis D. Brown, '39-268**, and his wife, Rene, have a son, Jeff (40), and reside at 7108 Daisy Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 95621; phone: 916-721-9580. "Brownie" reports, "I spend all of my time working for the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital. I'm 81 now and remember my college days as the very best."

### Obituaries

**Harold B. Wickersham, '21-64**, passed away October 14, 1996. "Wick" resided in Hadlock, Washington.

**Benjamin A. McBurney, '27-136**, died November 18, 1995. Brother McBurney lived in Claremont, California.

**Charles R. Buxton, '32-192**, died February 12, 1997, in Littleton, Colorado. The former editor and publisher of *The Denver Post*, brother Buxton received a distinguished service award from Oregon State. He resided in Morrison, Colorado. (Sources: **Bob Jensen, '37-240**, and *The Oregon Stater*.)

**George E. Carlon, '43-393**, and his wife, Patsy, receive mail at the Carlon Bros. Ranch, Box 39, Summer Lake, OR 97640. They have three sons: Tom (44), Don (42), and Scott (37). George writes, "Pretty much the same with us. Semiretired and have the ranch leased. Help the neighbors quite a bit. Help brother **John O'Leary ['50-525]** in Paisley, Oregon. Hope to get to go to a few Beaver events this winter."

**Alvin B. Friedrich, '45-412**, is retired from the feed and poultry business. He and his wife, DeLores, take their mail from PO Box 103, Canby, OR 97013; phone: 503-266-9357. They have a daughter (43) and two granddaughters. Al belongs to the OSU Alumni Club, the Oregon City Elks, Canby Kiwanis, and the Canby Barbershop Singers. He writes, "Since my retirement from Union Mills in 1986, my wife and I have had a hobby of collecting old historic sacks. We have over 1,000 of them, some over 80 years old. We display them each year at the Oregon State Fair, in the Poultry Building."

**Alfred E. Putnam, '46-424**, writes, "Very pleased to receive the *Tattler* again. I enjoy reading about brothers I was in school with — '46-'48. I play golf 4-5 times a week and maintain a 13 handicap. Donna and I travel extensively. We just came off a cruise to Egypt and other parts of Africa, Jordan, Israel, and Turkey in March and April, and we are scheduled through Indonesia to Australia over Christmas and the holidays. Our son, Steve, is a dentist for the State of Oregon. Will have a granddaughter going to Oregon State next fall!" When they're not traveling, Al and Donna can be found at 15 W. Southwood Dr., Woodland, CA 95695; phone: 916-662-3869.

**Richard M. Thurin, '48-475**, and Norma Cass Thurin (ΑΓΔ, OSC '50) have three children: Nancy (45), Steve (44), and Kathy (43). ("Boy, those kids are old!") "Stretch" writes, "We live in two houses full time. We spend half the week in Portland and half the week at our house on the banks of the Columbia River near Westport, Oregon. Play golf twice a week (at least), and fish for salmon and steelhead at the river house. Spend five weeks on Kauai, Hawaii, every winter and travel about a month out of the year. Being retired is the best job I ever had! I enjoy reading about the old geezers in the *Tattler*!" Richard and Norma's Portland address is 7355 SW Sharon Ln., Portland, OR 97225; phone: 503-292-0928 (E-mail: ndthurin@juno.com).

**David S. Lofts, '48-490**, resides with his wife, Barbara, at 4517 NE Plains Way, #47, Vancouver, WA 98662; phone: 360-944-7486. Dave is self-employed as a construction consultant: "Teaching younger men how to build and operate aggregate operations, ready-mix operations, and precast concrete operations." He and Barbara are the parents of Karen (43), Scott (deceased), David A. (39; past president of the Alpha Sigma Chapter), and Cinthia (33). Brother Lofts writes, "At the approach of my 71st birthday, I'm still hail and hearty and can congratulate OSU for getting rid of the most recent idiots in the athletic depart-

ment. I also wish Riley the best of luck; win or lose, play some Northwest boys!"

**Richard D. Swanson, '49-499**, enjoys woodworking and is prolific. He and his wife, Harriet, have six children: Dwight (43), Rod (40), Norm (38), Dave (37), Malia (32), and Matt (29). Dick retired in October 1995. He and Harriet reside at 7734 Woodside Dr., Stockton, CA 95207; phone: 209-478-0353.

**Gordon B. Bennett, '51-529**, reports that he and his wife, Edith, "spend 5-6 months a year traveling around the country in our motorhome. We winter in Yuma, which we consider home. We are leaving for Europe in September and will spend eight weeks touring England, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium. Should be fun!" Gordon and Edith's home base is at 14201 Fortuna Palms Pl., Yuma, AZ 85367 (E-mail: k7ped@juno.com). They have three children: Jim (45), Nancy (43), and Mary (42). They also have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Robert D. Campbell, '57-648**, resides at 1914 S. 104th St., Seattle, WA 98168. He writes, "I hope the Sigma Chapter is able to turn in a positive direction. Via the World Wide Web, the coverage of the brothers' activities in the *Barometer* has definitely spotlighted some of the chapter's problems in the past year!"

**Michael L. Hornbeck, '64-748**, writes, "I've purchased a place near Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and spend December through May there fishing and playing golf — come on down!" Mike's US address is 3009 Eldorado Dr., Medford, OR 97504.

**Greg P. Jacob, '64-749**, sends this update: "Assistant professor of English at Portland State beginning fall 1997." Greg and his wife, Kelly, live at 2157 NE Grant St., Hillsboro, OR 97124; phone: 503-681-8397 (E-mail: jacobg@gte.net).

**Steven E. Wall, '66-781**, is a Southwest Airlines pilot and captain. He lives at 6121 W. Morrow Dr., Glendale, AZ 85308; phone: 602-566-1666. Steve writes, "Still enjoy being out of the air force, flying with the airlines and 'sniffing' at the good-looking flight attendants! Lots of golf and tennis in the Phoenix area."

**Ronald W. Seagren, '72-881**, resides at 401 Bowling Ave., #88, Nashville, TN 37205; phone: 615-793-1833.

**Roger E. Tiple, '78-987**, writes, "I'm managing a technology group in Compaq's new Workstation Division. I spend a lot of time with my sons in their Boy Scout troop." Roger's sons are Geoff (13) and Kyle (11); he also has a daughter, Katie (9). Roger, his wife, Laurie (ΑΟΠ, OSU), and their children live at 11611 Laneview Dr., Houston, TX 77070; phone: 281-251-4693 (E-mail: tiple@acm.org).

**Brian J. Shaw, '84-1125**, is a financial planner. "Seka" and his wife, Kimberly (ΑΦ, OSU), have two-year-old twins named Connor and Mason. The Shaws reside at 8383 SW 158th Pl., Beaverton, OR 97007.

## 1997 Honor Roll of Contributors

As of December 10, 66 Theta Chis have contributed a total of \$3,420. The average donation is over \$51 — brothers are being especially generous in their support this year. Thank you all, and Happy Holidays!

Name	Init.	Yr. & No.						
Marvin L. Fisher	26	125	Ernest W. Templin	48	493	Paul D. Traugher	74	914
Fred S. Winters	28	144	Richard D. Swanson	49	499	Alan A. Andresen	74	917
Ralph G. Ciliax	29	151	Philip A. Lehenbauer	50	524	Roger E. Tiple	78	987
Frank W. Dedman	29	159	Gordon B. Bennett	51	529	Kevin L. Gorman	79	1006
Curtis C. Tigard	29	160	Charles E. Carlborn	54	577	Lorin F. McPherson	79	1015
Oliver W. Miller	32	185	George H. Caspar	54	585	Alexander Velicki, Jr.	80	1019
Murel A. Long	35	222	Robert D. Campbell	57	648	Michael L. Owen	81	1047
Frank H. Allhands, Jr.	36	230	Ken S. Hessel	58	654	David G. Roberts	81	1051
Robert W. Jensen	37	240	Jack I. Hamilton	58	662	Bruce E. Swanson	82	1060
Hollis D. Brown	39	268	Joe W. Moore	59	672	Rodney W. Copeland	82	1070
David M. Rockwood	42	339	Gilbert N. Miller	61	707	Douglas R. Faulkner	84	1121
Charles A. Boyden	42	357	Robert G. Nelson	62	721	Christopher R. Henningsen	85	1133
George E. Carlon	43	393	Michael L. Hornbeck	64	748	John D. Miller	85	1138
Alvin B. Friedrich	45	412	Verlin R. Rhoades	64	758	Jeffery P. Hough	86	1169
Robert E. Woodley	46	420	Lawrence D. Kampfer	64	759	Spencer A. Clarke	88	1209
Alfred E. Putnam	46	424	Terry S. Rosenau	66	780	Craig A. Keudell	89	1224
John C. O'Brien	47	452	Steven E. Wall	66	781	Bret L. Reiner	89	1228
Ellsworth D. Purdy	47	458	Stephen B. Jolley	66	784	Eric N. Bergemann	89	1231
Fred E. Harem	47	459	Robert C. Byrne	69	834	Timothy A. Larrance	89	1239
Edward J. Campbell	48	471	Bradley D. Hagedorn	70	850	Scott V. Tumbleson	93	1329
Richard M. Thurin	48	475	Bud Hooker	70	855	Erik M. Bucher	94	1359
David S. Lofts	48	490	Ronald W. Seagren	72	881			
			Gregory A. Parrott	73	891			