

The Indiana Chapter of Delta Upsilon Fraternity was chartered December 11, 1915, as the eleventh national social fraternity on the Indiana University campus. The forerunner organization was a debating society called The Wranglers.

The Wranglers were organized October 31, 1902, and was named after a similar type of student debating society which were famous groups on the Oxford and Cambridge campuses in England. During the first years of its existence, membership was limited to thirteen members.

The earliest Wrangler house was a frame structure located on East Kirkwood Street near the corner of Indiana Avenue. In preparation for the establishment of the D. U. chapter, The Wranglers moved to a larger structure on the corner of East Kirkwood Avenue and Lincoln Street. Enrollment at the University totalled about 1800 students at the time of the chartering.

On January 17, 1920, Brothers A. E. Schmollinger, M. E. Bash and Chester A. Davis were elected as the first officers of a new fraternal corporation, The Indiana Chapter of Delta Upsilon Alumni Association. This association offered three thousand shares of stock @ a par value of \$5.00 per share. Any initiated brother was eligible to purchase stock.

Shortly after the house corporation was formed, Brothers Walter O. Lewis, J. C. Warner and E. R. Grisell helped bring about the purchase of the James Gentry homestead on East Third Street. The 1924 Arbutus referred to this neighborhood as a "rural location". The 1924 Arbutus went to press, however, without reporting the fire which had razed the famous old Gentry Homestead.

In the early part of 1925 the house corporation sold bonds to finance the new Chapter house, which, together with the ground, had a valuation of \$75,000. The new house, a brick three-story structure, was one the most attractive and complete fraternity houses at the University. A Mr. Scholer was the Architect for the building and the contractor was Pike Builders.

During the 1930's Brother C. M. White of Bloomington became secretary of the house corporation and supervised the business of the chapter.

Mrs. Helen Hicks Baker was employed to manage the chapter house.

With the coming of the war, the chapter house was leased to the University which housed GI's who were sent to the University by the U. S. Army to study under the A. S. T. P. program. During the war the small group of DU's who were still in school lived together in an apartment house on East Kirkwood Avenue.

In 1946 enrollment at I. U. bulged with returning servicemen returning to campus to continue their education. Sixty-four brothers were living in the active chapter house in November, 1946. At about this time the chapter and the house corporation celebrated the paying off of the mortgage by having a mortgage burning party.

This state of affairs was not to last very long for it was acutely apparent in the early 1950's that a major step would have to be taken to combat the toll of time and boys on the chapter house. House corporation president Harold Peters, together with brothers Louis Weiland, Lee Jontz, E. Ross Bartley, Frank B. Jones and C. M. White, examined the possibility of selling the chapter house and moving to the new Fraternity Row which had been constructed by the University. A study of the location, the condition of the house, and a poll of the active chapter indicated that the chapter should stay where it was and that a major program house renovation, together with a much needed house addition, be instituted.

An architect (W. Strain) was hired and his plans were approved in 1958. In 1959 a Kokomo builder, Ted Anderson, a Purdue D. U., was hired to completely remodel the 34 year old chapter house. A new addition to the house was added and with the aid of Brother Elmer Sulzer, the corporation purchased the Robertson house immediately behind the chapter house for use as a parking lot. The building program involved more than \$225,000. Mr. Arthur "Pop" Raney was hired in 1958 to manage the chapter house.

The renovation program of 1959 raised the capacity of the house to 80 boys. 1963 saw the reorganization of the house corporation with the retirement of the stock and membership being granted to all chapter initiates. In 1965 the officers for the house corporation are: Frank B. Jones, president; James L. Brown, Vice-President; Howard Kahlenbeck, Secretary and Herbert E. Smith, Treasurer. Board members are Brothers Fred Adams, E. Ross Bartley, C. M. White, Alan Graf and Leland D. Jontz. As for fire engines and coach dogs, the records are gone; however, the chapter still owns one of each!