

ALPHA BETA DELTA, established on 18 May 1894, at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, by Harry Leigh Adams, Samuel Edward Beeler, George Warren Beggs Jr., Frank Faust, Ira Miller Higbee, Arthur Frank Loomis, Thomas Charles Roderick, Ambrose B. Strickler and Alfred Mahlon Worstall.

EIGHT OF THE ABOVE named men were initiated into the Bonds of Chi Psi by the Brothers of Alpha Rho at New Brunswick, New Jersey, on the evening of Friday 18 May 1894. The ninth man, Brother Beggs, who was in Ithaca at the time, was initiated by Alpha Psi on the same evening.

The founding of the Alpha was, perhaps, more accidental than is usually the case, the founders not being organized or bound together in any way to her than by the ordinary bond of friendship. They were all men who recognized the value of and the advantages to be derived from, the influence, support and name of a conservative Greek-letter fraternity of long standing and high rank, and were practically all the men who had been approached upon the subject of joining a fraternity. Most of them felt, however, that there was none at Lehigh at that time which entirely measured up to the standards of the better fraternities with which they were more or less familiar at other colleges, and they were hesitant about accepting invitations on that account.

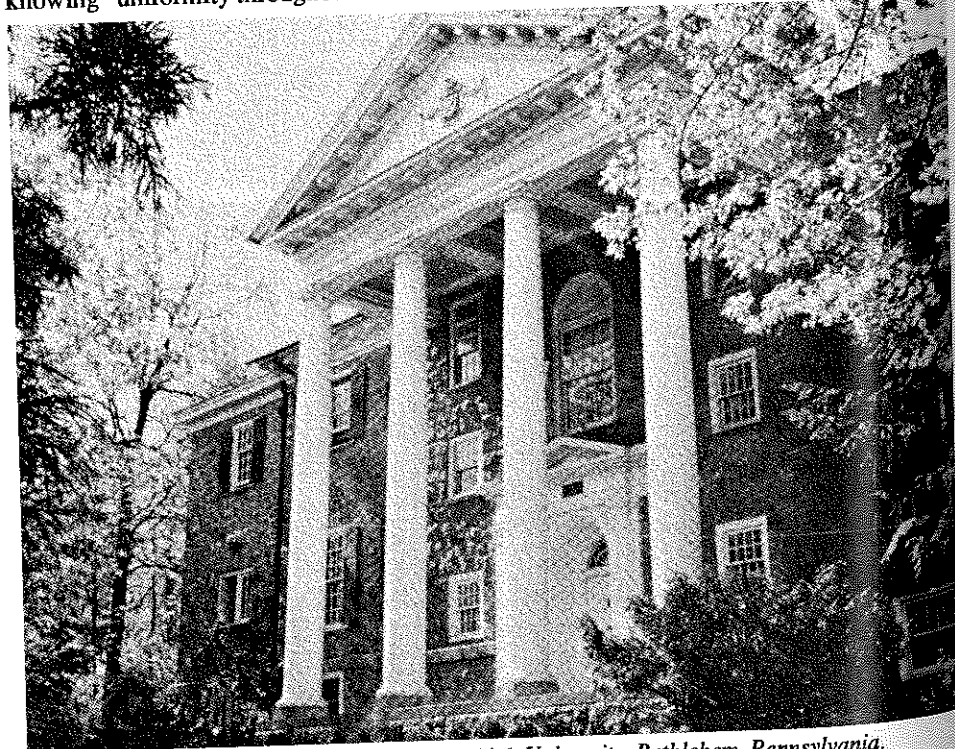
This was particularly true in the case of A.M. Worstall, who had as a very intimate friend a Chi Psi at Rutgers. In discussing the situation with him, the possibility of founding an Alpha of Chi Psi at Lehigh naturally came into their minds, and the more they thought of the scheme, the more feasible it sounded to them. Knowing some of the above-named men to be in the same state of mind as himself, he felt certain that he could interest them in his idea and gain their support. This he found the case, and not only did they express their desire to join him, but some were able to name other men who they were sure could be persuaded to help make up the petitioning body. When this work was completed, the nine men filed their application and awaited the announcement of the opinions of the Alphas with no little impatience. In a surprisingly short time they received word that their application had been

granted, the vote of the Alphas being unanimous and that a charter was to be granted. Very shortly after hearing of their rare good fortune, a telegram from Brother Turner of the Executive Council was received, requesting them to be present at Rutgers for the initiation on the following Friday night. Due to the short notice given, Brother Beggs was not able to accompany them, it being necessary that he be in Ithaca at the time. This, however, did not materially interfere, as it was arranged that he be taken into the Bonds of Alpha Psi on the same evening.

The initiation over, and with the first knowledge and realization of what Chi Psi ideals were, and for what Chi Psi stood, they returned, eager to make a start on the work before them of building up an Alpha which would measure up to the standards set by others. They felt that, being a new Alpha, they were a weak link in the chain, and knowing "uniformity throughout" to be one

of the features of which the Fraternity was most proud, they set to work with great vigor and enthusiasm to fulfill the trust which had been placed in them.

As is so often the case, good fortune accompanied industry and before the month following the initiation had passed by, they had pledged five men for the following year and had secured a lease on one of the best fraternity houses at Lehigh. This they felt to be a great stride, as they realized the impracticability of the Brothers living apart and still maintaining their unity for any length of time. While regular meetings were held at the different rooms of the Brothers and a great deal of work was done, the inconvenience entailed made this fact only the more evident. Besides these accomplishments, paraphernalia for conducting initiations and meetings was secured, by-laws were drawn up, and officers elected. By the end of June everything was in shape to start off the fol-



The Lodge of Alpha Beta Delta at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

lowing year in a routine sort of way, and the Brothers disbanded to spend the summer with the free conscience that goes with the knowledge of a duty well done.

Immediately upon coming together in the fall, the Brothers who were not lost by graduation initiated the five pledged men, in order to have their assistance in the work of entertaining new men and organizing the Alpha. They were fairly successful in this, and pledged two men, who were initiated soon after. At this time they first began to realize that conditions at Lehigh were far from ideal from a fraternity's standpoint, and especially from that of a new one. At the outside only thirty per cent of the men were fraternity material. Considering that Lehigh's average number of students was six hundred and fifty and that there were eighteen other fraternities, it is evident that there was a great scramble for good men. Not having alumni on whom they could depend for aid in the

matter of getting men, they had to rely on their own activity and upon the assistance of Brothers from other Alphas. For this reason their chief source of worry, and by far the biggest part of the task before them, was that of getting new men, and it was only through untiring efforts on their part that they were successful.

The manner of conducting meetings was discussed thoroughly and order was fixed upon. The regular weekly meetings were held, every fourth one being devoted to debates, papers and informal discussions on various topics of Fraternity history and interest. At the same time other details were reduced to routine form and the Alpha began to assume its normal shape. Affairs went along thus for quite a long time, the Alpha losing a number of men each year by graduation and other causes, and taking in about the same number from each incoming class. Gradual changes were made from time to

time as they became necessary, but nothing of a radical nature. The Brothers were active in college and social affairs, mingling as much as possible with other men, and thus continually striving to bring the Fraternity at Lehigh to that foremost rank to which Chi Psi has ever been accustomed.

At all times during that period the Alpha was financially firm, and it seemed that within a few years their dream of having a Lodge of their own would be realized. While they owned no real estate or buildings, they had bought furniture and had kept their actual running expenses in excellent shape, incurring no debts of long standing and usually having a respectable balance on the credit side.

Throughout the whole first ten years of Beta Delta's history this atmosphere of prosperity was manifest, the topmost point being probably during the year of its tenth anniversary—1904. At this time the Alpha had four-

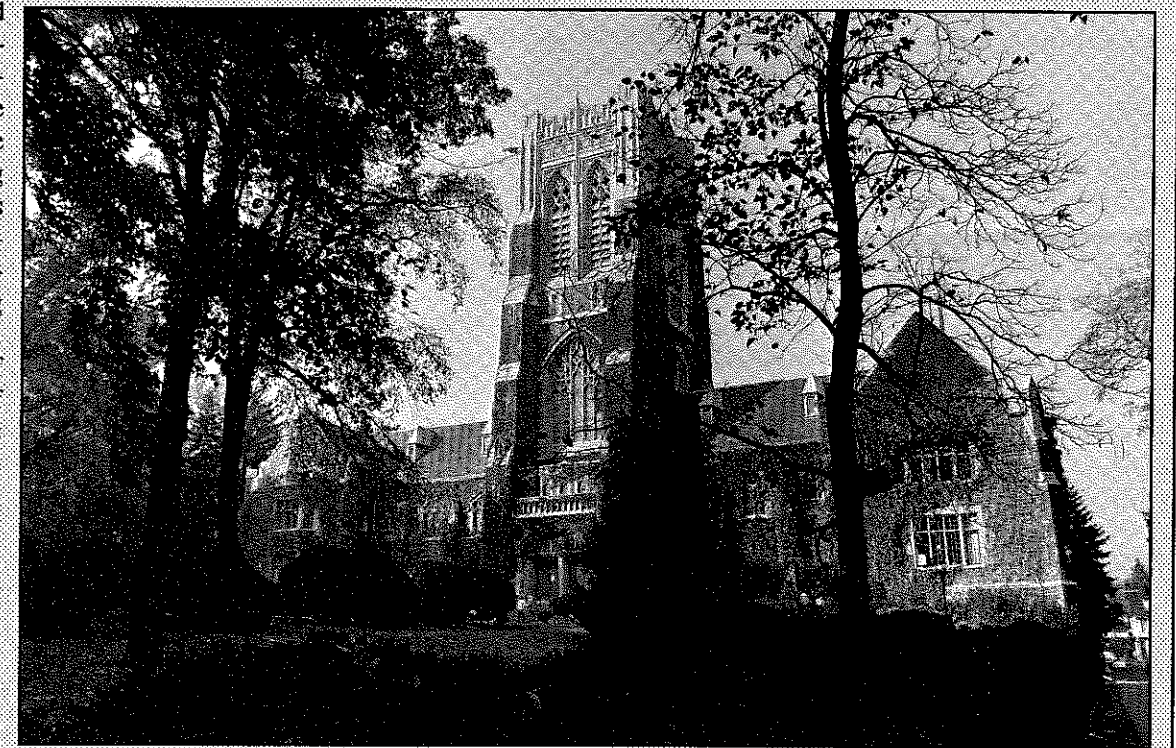
Lehigh University

FOUNDED IN 1865 as a men's engineering school, Lehigh has since opened its doors to business administration, liberal arts and women. There are 4,500 undergraduate and 1,900 graduate students at Lehigh, which is located on the north slope of South Mountain overlooking Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The campus is "stunning," and grand old oaks shade ivy-covered stone structures. Because of the unique setting on the mountain, interesting architectural treatments are possible, with several residential and academic buildings being entered on upper floors. A substantial portion of the upper level of Lehigh's campus is maintained as a nature preserve, which supports deer, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, and birds.

Almost half of the undergraduate students are enrolled in the college of engineering and physical sciences. Most

of the students are from Pennsylvania and neighboring states. Freshmen are required to live in campus dorms, and a majority of upperclassmen live in Greek housing.

There are thirty-three fraternities and six sororities on the campus of Lehigh University.



The Alumni Building at Lehigh University.

teen men, all leaders in college activities, and prominent in many phases of college life. The financial condition was also better than ever before. The prospects for the following year were good and everything pointed to an even more rapid growth. The first inkling of the coming depression was the discovery upon the opening of college in the fall that only four of the Brothers who had been in the Lodge the preceding year would be able to return. This was a jolt which should have awakened them to the necessity of putting forth every effort in the acquisition of new men, but being so accustomed to the position of independence which had enabled them practically to get a man for the asking, without any great expenditure of time or energy, they seemed unable to grasp the situation and could not realize that they were up against a really serious proposition. This attitude, was of course, only an added handicap, and it was not until several weeks more had passed by with no pledged men to their credit that it became evident to them that they must begin over and go to work in a new spirit.

Theodore B. Brown, II '98, who was Visitor at that time, spent almost a month at the Lodge, helping them in their rushing and in adjusting themselves to their new circumstances. M. B. Landers, Φ'03, spent the whole first term with them and was also of great assistance. It was only by very hard work that two men were pledged before the Christmas holidays, and with this number in the Lodge they got along fairly well during the first half of the college year.

At the time of the mid-year examinations a second series of misfortunes befell them, and when the new term opened only three men were left to carry on the struggle of maintaining the Alpha throughout the rest of the year, and to meet the problem of setting it once more upon its feet at the beginning of the following year. This trio consisted of a senior, a junior and one of the recently initiated freshmen. It was impossible for them to hold regular meetings or to carry on the business pertaining to the general Fraternity, so their attention was concentrated upon the keeping up of the Lodge and the matter of swelling their number in the fall.

To succeed in the first it was necessary for them to appropriate the money which had been so laboriously laid by, in past years, and even then debts were incurred which were

not paid off for some time. They lived economically and ran the Lodge at a minimum of expense, but in spite of this it was a heavy drain upon Alpha treasury, and the Alpha did not recover from its effect for a number of years.

In the accomplishment of securing new members they were forced to devise new methods of rushing and new ways of getting in touch with the sub-freshmen. After much persuasion they succeeded in getting a list of prospective freshmen from the registrar of the university and they wrote innumerable letters, paid visits, and enlisted alumni and Brothers from other Alphas in the service of looking up men, to such an extent that by September they had practically made up their minds as to whom they wanted and had made their plans as to how they were going to get them. This was a great advantage, especially in view of the fact that at that time the other fraternities had no such means of getting their men in line in advance.

When September came and the time for them to put forth their final efforts drew near, the two remaining Brothers had succeeded in arousing the interest of every one of the alumni and of many of the other Alphas. A number of the Brothers were able to spend the first few weeks of the college year at the Lodge, and helped in the rushing in every possible way. The result of all this preparation and work was exceedingly gratifying, and when the rushing season was over, six new men had been pledged, and all were interested, even before initiation, in the manner of restoring to the Alpha its lost prosperity.

At this point another era of prosperity begins, although that position of independence occupied in the earlier years of the Alpha's existence was not to be reached. Particularly from a financial point of view was the Alpha pressed, being unable to recover from the strain to which it had been subjected during that one year of misfortune. The opportunity presented itself at this time to obtain a house which was as good as the old, at a cheaper rental, and this good fortune was a big factor in their financial rehabilitation. The condition improved steadily under the good management of the following years until 1911, which may in many ways be compared with the year 1904. At this time there were fifteen men in the Lodge, all active in college and fraternity affairs. The

financial condition was better than it had been in years—in fact, since 1904—and everything indicated growing prosperity for an indefinite length of time.

It was found, however, that besides the six Brothers lost by graduation, four others were unable to return to college, and only five men remained to handle the rushing problem at the beginning of the new year. These were unfitted for this responsibility in almost every way, lacking both the experience and the information in regard to the material in the entering class, which is so essential. As was discovered later, the class was small, and the material poor, and with this additional handicap they succeeded in pledging only one man during the rushing season. They were very much discouraged over this poor showing and determined to do better. Taking a fresh start, they went over the class again, looking up each man carefully, and in this subsequent work they met with some degree of success, pledging two more men. Two of the new Brothers had their homes in town and so were of no aid to the Alpha as far as the steward's account was concerned, and with only six men living in the Lodge, it was impossible for them to run it without going into debt.

The next year's delegation is ample evidence of the fact that those men had learned the lesson. Ten men were pledged, and of the seven that were initiated, none was lost because of poor scholarship. In fact, the whole period was one of unusual activity along all lines, much being done in the clearing up of old debts and the straightening out of the system of accounting, which had been in a hopelessly tangled condition during the preceding year.

Meanwhile, the alumni had been taking steps toward stabilizing the Alpha and insuring its future, insofar as these aims could be accomplished through ownership of a new Lodge, and on 20 November 1915, the first meeting of the subscribers to bonds to be issued by the Beta Delta Building Association, in the process of organization, was held at the Lehigh Country Club. The sum of \$13,000 had already been subscribed toward the building of a new Lodge in Sayre Park, on old South Mountain overlooking the campus. Application for a charter for the association was filed, and the plans for a native stone colonial type building, submitted by Tilghman H. Moyer Co., architects, of

Allentown, Pennsylvania, were adopted.

On 27 November 1915, the Beta Delta Building Association was granted a charter and at the first meeting of the association on 15 January 1916, Francis P. Sinn '04, was elected president; J. Arthur Frick '03, vice-president, and A. B. Strickler '96, secretary and treasurer. The new Lodge was completed under the direction of the finance committee, composed of A. B. Strickler, chairman; J. Arthur Frick and W. H. Myers '03, and the first meeting of the alumni association was held in it on 16 November.

The new Lodge and new enthusiasm brought prosperity to the Alpha until the time of the World War. During that period it was practically dormant, as for a while there

were but three active men in the Alpha and the Lodge was used by the government to quarter men in training. In 1919 several of the Brothers who had left for the service returned to college and through their efforts the Alpha was soon back almost to normal, and by 1922 the depleted Alpha was back to full strength once more.

I. B. Wheeler '07, was elected president of the building association in November 1921, and was succeeded by A. B. Strickler in November, 1926. During that time the Alpha was preeminent on the campus and the internal affairs were so well handled that the Alpha in 1925 was awarded the Thayer Trophy.

Samuel H. Shipley '20 was elected

president of the building association in 1927 and was succeeded by John R. Denise '28, in 1929. Under the leadership of these men the alumni actively participated in the affairs of the association and its financial position was much improved.

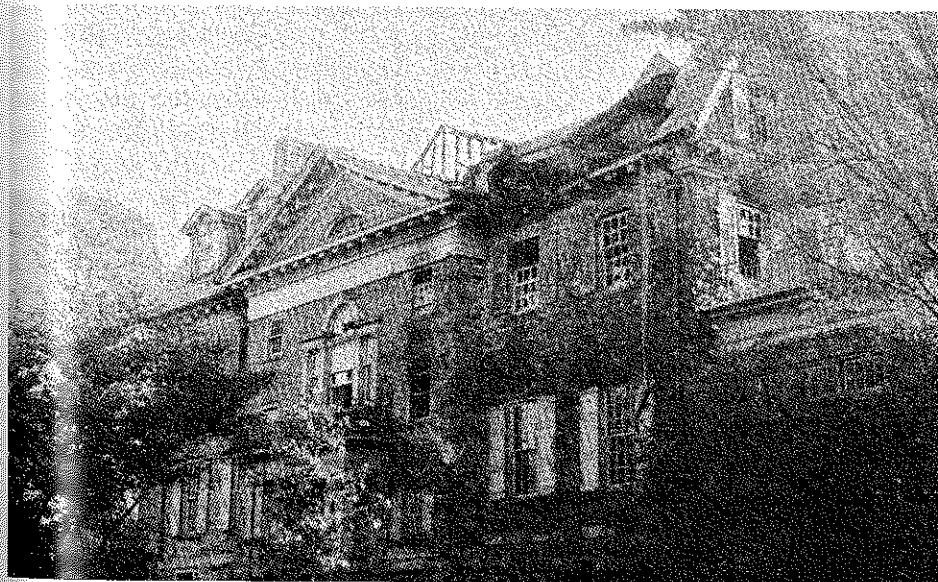
Ambrose B. Strickler '96, who had been secretary and treasurer, and later president, of the building association died on 5 June 1927. In his will Brother Strickler provided for the payment of a note in the sum of \$10,000.00 held by a York bank against the Lodge. A \$10,000.00 mortgage remained to be paid, but with the impetus of "Pop" Strickler's legacy the alumni speedily reduced this mortgage.

A massive bronze plaque was placed in the Lodge by the alumni in memory of "Pop" Strickler, on which appears: "A founder of Alpha Beta Delta and its outstanding leader. His life was an inspiring example of devotion to Chi Psi." Over the mantel in the dining room was hung a beautiful portrait of Brother Strickler, donated by his faithful valet, Tai Iwatsu.

In 1930 a spacious sun porch of stone and tile was built and the Lodge room was entirely reconstructed, involving a total expenditure of \$9,500.00. The building was kept in excellent condition and needed renovations were constantly being made. The university officials have rated the Lodge as the best fraternity building at Lehigh.

Harold Demarest '34, was elected president of the building association in November 1937, and in the spring of 1938 a drive to wipe out the balance of the mortgage indebtedness on the Lodge was launched at a Beta Delta dinner in New York. The result of the drive was the burning of the mortgage at the annual meeting of the building association the following November, making Beta Delta free of debt.

The alumni and actives, working in close harmony, brought the Alpha to the preeminence on the campus. In the field of sports, on the editorial staffs and councils of student government, Beta Delta was always well represented. Proud of its achievements and proud of its alumni who have distinguished themselves in engineering business, law and medicine, remaining true Chi Psis, Alpha Beta Delta has followed the precepts of the Fraternity, carefully guarding its secrets, preserving its traditions, and carrying aloft the ideals of Chi Psi.



On the afternoon of 27 October 1941, the Beta Delta Lodge was virtually consumed by fire.



No person was injured in the fire, believed to have been caused by defective wiring in the furnace room.

The Brothers of Alpha Beta Delta made a strong showing at the Centennial Convention in Schenectady, New York, in May of 1941. In addition to then #1, Arthur L. Fischer '42, ten other undergraduate Brothers attended the celebration. The eleven member undergraduate delegation was joined by a fourteen member alumni delegation. Members of this delegation included J. Truman Bidwell '25, then member of the Executive Council; Harold Demarest '34, and J. Palmer Murphy '38, current and future presidents of the Beta Delta Building Association, respectively.

The fall of 1941 was a high time for the Alphas of Chi Psi, and Alpha Beta Delta was no exception. Many of the Brothers had attended the Centennial and were rededicated to the ideals of Brotherhood. The Alpha held a successful rush, maintained a full social calendar, and continued its domination of the Lehigh intramural fields.

Then, on the afternoon of Friday 27 October, the Alpha was struck a most crushing blow — the Lodge was almost totally destroyed by fire. The fire was thought to have been caused by faulty wiring in the basement of the Lodge. Although there was no loss of life, the event raised many questions about the future of the Alpha. In a letter to Albert S. Bard, X'88, past #7, H. Seger Slifer, E'12, then #23 of the Fraternity, writes:

"Sorry to hear of this (the fire) - I believe you have told the complete story. It looks as if it would be some time before another fraternity house would be built - Beta Delta may be in for a hard time."

The Brothers of Alpha Beta Delta immediately set out to prove "Slip" wrong. The undergraduates wasted no time in renting a structure to temporarily house the Alpha, while the alumni began searching for architects and builders. On 11 January 1942, the contract for re-building the new Lodge was awarded to the Tilghmand Moyer Co., the original contractors of the old Lodge in 1916. The cost of re-building was approximately \$60,000. To finance the rebuilding, the building association had to take out a \$40,000 mortgage. The mortgage was paid off in the fall of 1946, a huge undertaking considering the other events of this era.

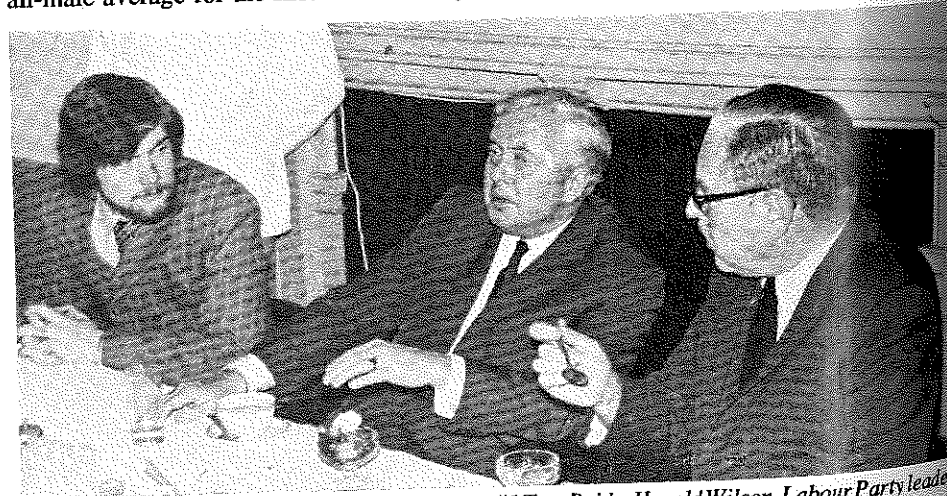
Shortly after the fire, the Alpha was dealt another equally crushing blow—the outbreak of the Second World War. The call to arms was heeded by many of the Brothers

of Chi Psi; the men of Alpha Beta Delta were no different. Most of the Brothers who were willing to defend their country and their beliefs returned, some did not. It is to these six fallen Brothers of Alpha Beta Delta that we give our hallowed respect and admiration. The Brothers, who on the beaches, who on the battlefield, who on the sea and who in the air, paid that ultimate price, and who will be remembered eternally are:

George W. Pease '26
Frank B. Miller, Jr. '35
John H. Hebrank '46
George H. Riley '32
Frank E. Smith, Jr. '42
Leonard W. Story '47

The late 1940s and early 1950s were years of great improvement for Beta Delta. Like most Alphas after the war, Beta Delta faced an "uphill battle" to return to their pre-1941 standing. It was only through strong internal leadership and the continued vigilance of the Alumni that this revival was accomplished, and with great success. The Alpha continued its long tradition in varsity athletic participation with over 75% of the Brothers competing in many sports. The athletic prowess of the Brothers on the varsity fields overflowed onto the intramural fields as well, with Chi Psi finishing first in football, soccer and basketball for several years.

One area that had plagued Beta Delta for many years was that of scholarship. For several years the Alpha finished near the bottom in fraternity rankings at Lehigh. It was not until 1950 that this problem was corrected with the Alpha finishing over the all-male average for the first time in many



Enjoying lunch at the Beta Delta Lodge in 1972 are #1 Tom Reidy, Harold Wilson, Labour Party leader and former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Lehigh President W. Deming Lewis.

years.

During the fall of 1950, there was some concern that the Lodge might be appropriated by the U.S. Army as a training facility. Plans were made by the Alumni association in case the Lodge were to be unoccupied for the duration of the Korean Conflict. To everyone's relief, this plan was never implemented.

The hard work and vigilance of the years immediately following the war finally paid off when, in 1953, at the 112th Convention at Alpha Psi, the men of Beta Delta won the Thayer Trophy. The award holds special meaning to the Brothers of Beta Delta because in 1922, it was Philip H. Thayer '10 who presented this award to the Fraternity as a symbol of Chi Psi achievement. To the men of Beta Delta, the Thayer had come home.

The initiation held at the Lodge on 22 October 1954 did more than welcome ten new Brothers into the bonds. It marked another milestone in the life of J. Palmer Murphy '38, for during the ceremony, he initiated his 100th man into the bonds. The event was appropriately and beautifully marked by a few well chosen words of esteem from E. Robbins Morgan, B'03, and by the presentation of a silver dollar to symbolize the occasion by Morgan to Murphy.

The late 1950s proved to be tough years for the Alpha. The Alpha faced many challenges, especially in the areas of finance and scholarship. The Alpha did improve somewhat under the watchful eye of their own Alpha Visitor, William LeClere, BA'57. This improvement is evident in his report of February 1949:

"Upon returning to my own Lodge for

the second time in as many years as Visitor, I discovered the same general problems exist. However, substantial improvement has been made... Chi Psi continues on the Lehigh campus as a 'prestige fraternity'... continued scholarship improvement may be anticipated for the semester now in progress... training of the assistant #4 this year has also been complete enough to expect immediate and consistent results for the office next year."

During the 1960s, Alpha Beta Delta maintained a constant level of performance. The Lodge continued to dominate the varsity and intramural athletic programs at Lehigh. Faculty and campus relations continued to improve with the implementation of the Faculty Smokers in the mid-1960s. Alumni relations and involvement remained excellent throughout the decade. As before, the Alpha was constantly in the position of having to improve its financial and scholarship perfor-

mance. The condition of the Alpha is best summarized by William E. LeClere '57 in the Winter 1966 Purple & Gold:

"The active Alpha is having a good year, with good leadership, strong financial control and improved programs throughout. Chi Psi continues its prominence in campus activities. Alumni leadership continues to be strong, and to the credit of all involved, younger alumni are gradually being moved into the picture to assure informed corporate leadership for the future."

During the 1970s the Alpha continued its leadership role on the Lehigh campus. It was during this time that the Alpha decided to extend its influence into the community and began a tradition of successful service projects. It was during this time as well that the Alpha corrected the two problems that have been nagging them for years - scholarship and finances.

All of the hard work and diligence dis-

played by the Alpha during the 1970s and 1980s finally came to fruition in 1985 when, at the Convention in Winter Park, Florida, Alpha Beta Delta once again won the Thayer Trophy. As in 1953, the Brothers felt that the Thayer had once again "returned home".

The six years since the winning of the Thayer Trophy have proven to be good years for the Alpha. The Brothers have continued their strong involvement in varsity and intramural sports. The condition of the Lodge has continued to improve due to constant upkeep by the undergraduates and constant support from the Alumni. The Alpha has increased its campus and community involvement. Though it has fluctuated, the scholarship standing of the Alpha has continued to improve as well. The Brothers of Alpha Beta Delta can confidently say, as in the past, that they are the premiere Greek organization at Lehigh.

—Walter Williams, Γ'91



Brothers from Alpha Beta Delta at the Centennial Convention at Union College on 3 May 1941.