

## The Delta Beta Bridge Builders

### A tribute to those who came before, and for those who will follow after.

As everyone in the room knows or should know, Beta Theta Pi was founded on the 8th day of the 8th month by 8 gentlemen in 1839 (August 8, 1839) at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio

The principles that Beta was founded on those more than 170 years ago: Mutual assistance in the honorable labors and aspirations of life, devotion to the cultivation of the intellect, unsullied friendship, and unfaltering fidelity still hold true today. -- These are held as objects worthy of the highest aim and purpose of all Betas. Beta Theta Pi continues to be a testament to its ideals of brotherhood and friendship as one of the oldest continually operating fraternities in the country. Tonight's gathering here just emphasizes that these ideals of brotherhood and friendship still exist and will continue to exist.

In 1957, a Beta brother named Louis Linxwiler, Jr. Oklahoma State '53 was transferred by the Valley National Bank of Arizona to its Tucson branch. Lou didn't know a single Beta in Tucson, but was soon welcomed at one of the monthly luncheons sponsored by the existing Tucson Beta alumni group. Among those present were John Siegle, Northwestern '27; Russ Hastings, Kansas '32; Paul Foster, Purdue '17; Rex Wray, Pennsylvania '22; and Dr. Deb Secrist, Washington & Jefferson. **Were there others??**

A couple of months after Lou's arrival, the older members of the group had decided to make an overture to the General Fraternity office. They welcomed the eager and energetic abilities of the youthful Lou and of Henry B. Anderson Ohio Wesleyan '52, a graduate assistant at the university and the son of a well-known Tucson attorney. They accepted the young men's offer to assist in forming a colony at the University.

One of the interested parties turned out to be a gentleman named Dupuy F. Cayce, Westminster '31 # 353, a Vice President of American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) corporation in New York, whose son, Forster, was a freshman at Arizona.

Eventually things were in enough order to apply for official Chapter status with the national fraternity. The application process set in motion. Key support for the application was received from Arizona Congressman John Rhodes, Kansas State '38, who spoke in support of the cause at a meeting of the Board of Trustees in May, 1959, in Washington D.C.

In August of 1959, six members piled into Lou Linxwiler's 4-cylinder 180D Mercedes and proceeded to French Lick, the famous resort town on the Ohio in southern Indiana in pursuit of the charter. Their trip was not in vain; the charter was granted. The Delta Beta Chapter was subsequently installed October 31, 1959, with Sherwood Bonney, President of Beta Theta Pi, as installing officer.

At this point it should be mentioned that a group in the 1920s or 1930s formed a local fraternity called Beta Chi, and had petitioned Beta repeatedly for a chapter charter. These entreaties were never approved, but when the 1959 charter was granted, 17 of the original members of Beta Chi were included in the initiation process and finally received their Beta badges.

There were twenty Charter Members of Delta Beta, led by Thomas Blair Glover, AZ'61. There was also Kingston Jay Smallhouse AZ' 28, a highly respected rancher in the Tucson area, who was one of the members of the Beta Chi group. Another initiate was Paul M. Strickler, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania '26 and the manager of the Tucson office of brokerage E. F. Hutton.

In addition, Robert Lynn Waddell, Colorado College '62, the local Delta Beta Chapter's first President, and Henry Delbert Anderson, Ohio Wesleyan '52, were also initiated.

And thus, 50 years ago at the end of this month on October 31, 1959, the glorious beginning of Delta Beta was officially brought to fruition.

Many years ago, as stated previously, somewhere in the '20's, a band of brothers tried to establish Beta Theta Pi at the University of Arizona. It could be said that on a warm day at the end of the school year, as the brothers closed the door on their last meeting, they turned and found Brother Wooglin standing before them with a pledge that Beta will return. Wooglin knew that there would be another coming.

And so in later 1950's, a Beta brother, Lou, heeded Wooglin's word and came forth to establish the Delta Beta chapter in 1959. After twelve great years Wooglin was there once again when times got tough. He reassured those that at the proper time another coming might happen. And how by coincidence, once again in 1986 and this time by former Delta Beta brothers residing in the Tucson area, Delta Beta was brought to life again.

This scenario of our history brings to mind a poem that I feel truly fits our situation. It is called

The Bridge Builder, which was written by MISS WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE and speaks of each generation's responsibilities to its successors.

An old man going a lone highway  
Came in the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast, both deep and wide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The swollen stream was naught to him;  
But he stopped when safe on the farther side  
And build a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength in labor here;  
Your journey will end with the closing day,  
You never again will pass this way.  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide  
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"

The laborer lifted his old gray head,  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm which has been naught to me  
To that young man may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

We brothers have inherited eight score and ten years of traditions, history, ideals and accomplishments. It is only as the years pass, and friendships grow more cherished, that you become aware of the high privilege afforded by membership in the Beta Theta Pi fraternity which symbolizes your pledge of mutual assistance, of your cultivation of the intellect, and of the friendship and fidelity flowing amongst you.

Today, Beta Bridge Builders contribute to the building up of Beta Theta Pi by giving freely of their time, talents, and affection to make our fraternity what it is. And as brothers, we have tried to build for you, the youth, as you in turn must build for those who are to follow.

So on this night, look around and congratulate your fellow Beta brothers for a job well done and encourage those presently in the house to maintain that bridge so that future generations can continue to pass over.

It is the Delta Beta Alumni Associations hope that many will follow their example as these outstanding groups of Delta Beta men continue a long tradition of "Marching along in Beta Theta Pi".

Remember, Beta Theta Pi does not make Betas they take Betas.

In closing, I would like to say a very much appreciated and probably overdo Thank You to Lou Linxwiller for his forethought, hard work, and perseverance for creating this wonderful Beta chapter on the University of Arizona's campus.

Thank you all for coming and -- Thank God I am a Beta.

Robert Petrucciani #15