



# Wooglin on Chautauqua

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Beta Theta Pi at the University of Oklahoma

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## ALUMNUS BRINGS PAST TO LIFE

Beta history comes alive with the memories of Robert Hayes, class of '32. His reminiscences of life at 800 Chautauqua during the late '20s and early '30s provided a fascinating glimpse into the history of Gamma Phi Chapter.

He was a member of the first group to move into the Chautauqua house from the one on DeBarr Street back in early 1929. "The house lot was obtained sometime earlier than when actually built on," he recalls. "It was actually a cornfield. The part that the Chi Omegas built on was sold to them for \$5,000, the same amount that was paid for the entire lot, letting us come out with a free piece of ground."

Tankersley Construction Company of Oklahoma City contracted to build the house for \$80,000; a price that was artificially low, Bob says, because the company was run by a Gamma Phi alumnus.

"There were about 52 of us when the chapter moved into the house," he says. "The 'powers-that-be' got the idea of having a 'bond' sale to raise \$5,000 for the furniture and furnishings. Each (member) sold at least one bond to his family, etc., and the \$5,000 was quickly raised. The bonds were later redeemed by the chapter.

"The basement was left 'rough' and was the scene of many a 'Pledge Court' for myself and succeeding pledges," he adds.

"As one of the pledges, a hell of a lot of work fell my way," he recalls. "(Other memories) include the house bill, which then was \$52. Seems it had just

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*I got \$5 per week from home (besides the house bill) for spending money and barely, and I mean barely, managed.*

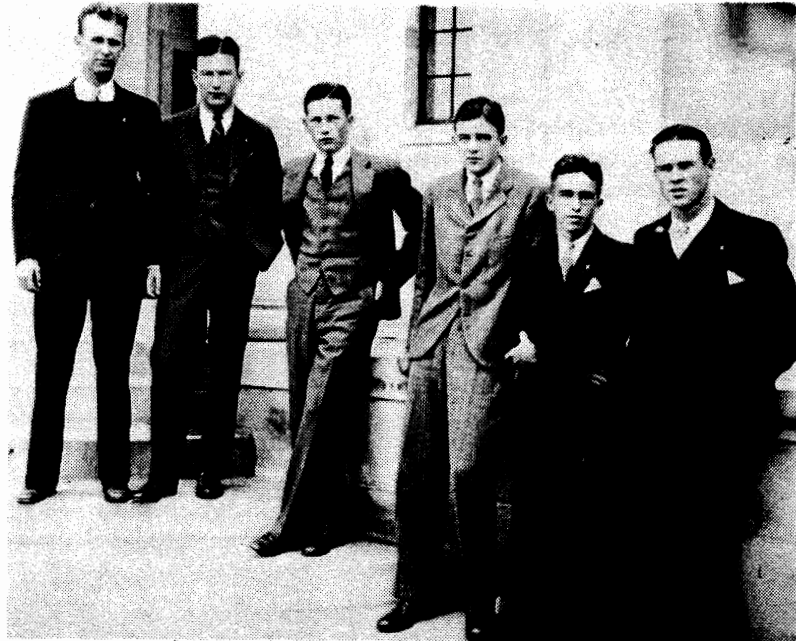
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gone up from \$48 per month, which included dues, room and board. I got \$5 per week from home (besides the house bill) for spending money and barely, and I mean barely, managed.

Other Betas were more fortunate, though. "The fall of 1930, one of our Muskogee boys, William Buchanan, was pledged and his father gave him \$250 a month, which we thought was most generous," he notes.

Another startling fact that Bob recalls is that not a single member owned his own car. "A far cry from nowadays, is it not," he asks.

Times may have changed at 800 Chautauqua but, thanks to Bob, those times have come to life for our current actives. Our heart-felt thanks go to Bob for sharing a bit of the history that makes Beta Theta Pi unique at the University of Oklahoma.



**WELCOME HOME:** Pictured above is the first pledge class to live at 800 Chautauqua. Left to right, they are John Toney, Morris Wells, John Thomas, Bob Hayes, Claude Davenport and Roy Gardner.



Wooglin on Chautauqua is published regularly by the men of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at the University of Oklahoma for members and friends.

News items, photographs and changes of address should be sent to Gamma Phi of Beta Theta Pi, Newsletter Program Headquarters, P.O. Box 708, Kansas City, MO 64141.

### Chapter Officers

- President . . . . . Mark McDaniel
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### Drop Us A Line!

Because *Wooglin on Chautauqua* is an alumni oriented newsletter, the active chapter is eager to hear from you. Please send anecdotes of the past and news of today to the Newsletter Program Headquarters address that is listed above. Photographs will be returned. Our actives want to learn more about our heritage, and your former classmates will enjoy reminiscing.

### Message to Alumni

# Homecoming Reunion Set

Thank you for the outstanding response we had to the first issue of our alumni newsletter, *Wooglin on Chautauqua*. We hope you enjoy the interesting cover story in our current issue concerning the early happenings of our chapter in the 1930s.

For those of you who haven't heard, there is a Gamma Phi alumni gathering being planned by members of the House Corporation for Homecoming this year. Please plan to join members of your pledge class for an evening of brotherhood, fine food and drink as the Sooners engage the University of Colorado on the gridiron. Mark your calendars now! Homecoming Weekend is November 16. Alumni can get more details by writing to Fallis Beall ('55) at 1000 Alpine, Duncan, OK 73533.

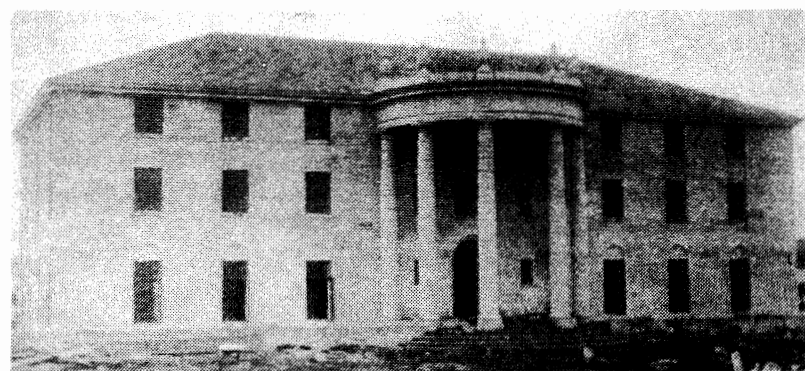
Finally, let me extend an invitation to visit us any time you are in the area. Formal meals are Wednesday evening during fall semester. If you plan to pass through, contact us at the house so we can set an extra place. Remember: "Our house is your house."

Yours in -kai-,  
**Jim Kelly**, Vice President and Editor

**The Face is Familiar ...**

The class of 1929-30 is featured in the photograph on page 3. From left to right, how many brothers can you identify?

<b>1st Row</b>	Wyman Patton	Bert Smith	Claude Davenport
Emil Hastings	Alvin Muldrow	Bob Hayes	Francis Fleming
Myers Hurt	Edwin Humphrey	Everett Purcell	Webster Wilder
Bill Harris	Paul Pugh	Roy Gardner	Preston W. Jones
Andy Orr	Dick Blair	Morris Wells	<b>5th Row</b>
Fred Entriken	Randon Porter	Grant Buxton	Ed ?
Wm. A. Barr	Ted Lindsay	Phil Lenhard	Ken Blackmar
John Miller	Owen B. Wood	Don Atkinson	Charley Edgerton
Harold Medford	John Toney	Wilson Bell	John Thomas
Starr Cook	Harold Sullivan	<b>4th Row</b>	?
Harold Sidwell	Charles Walbert	Wm. R. Clark	Wilber Griffith (?)
Ryan Morris	<b>3rd Row</b>	Buck Weaver	?
<b>2nd Row</b>	R. F. Thweatt		Harold Atkinson



**HOME IS WHERE HEART IS:** This photograph shows our chapter house shortly before it was finished in the late '20s.

*So Long, Farewell*

## Seniors Bequeath Superior Record

Active Betas are continuing the tradition of excellence established by our alumni, and nowhere is this more evident than with our departing senior class and this year's pledge class.

As 36 seniors remove their belongings from 800 Chautauqua, they can look back on four years of distinction. They got off to a good start as pledges in 1981 by achieving a 3.2 grade point ratio; a GPA higher than any fraternity or sorority has achieved in recent history. Beyond academics, the group showed leadership in campus activities. The class also made its mark on the athletic field, consistently being named to All-Greek teams in football and volleyball and winning championships in intramural wrestling. Six members served as student

congressmen.

Their list of achievements goes on. Two were selected as Top Ten Sophomores; three were chosen as Big Men on Campus and Letzeiser Award winners; one member was elected president of Pe-et (Top Ten Seniors); and three members were handed the golden key of Phi Beta Kappa. The group rounded out its honors by having *five* of its members elected to the ranks of the Top Ten Greeks on campus.

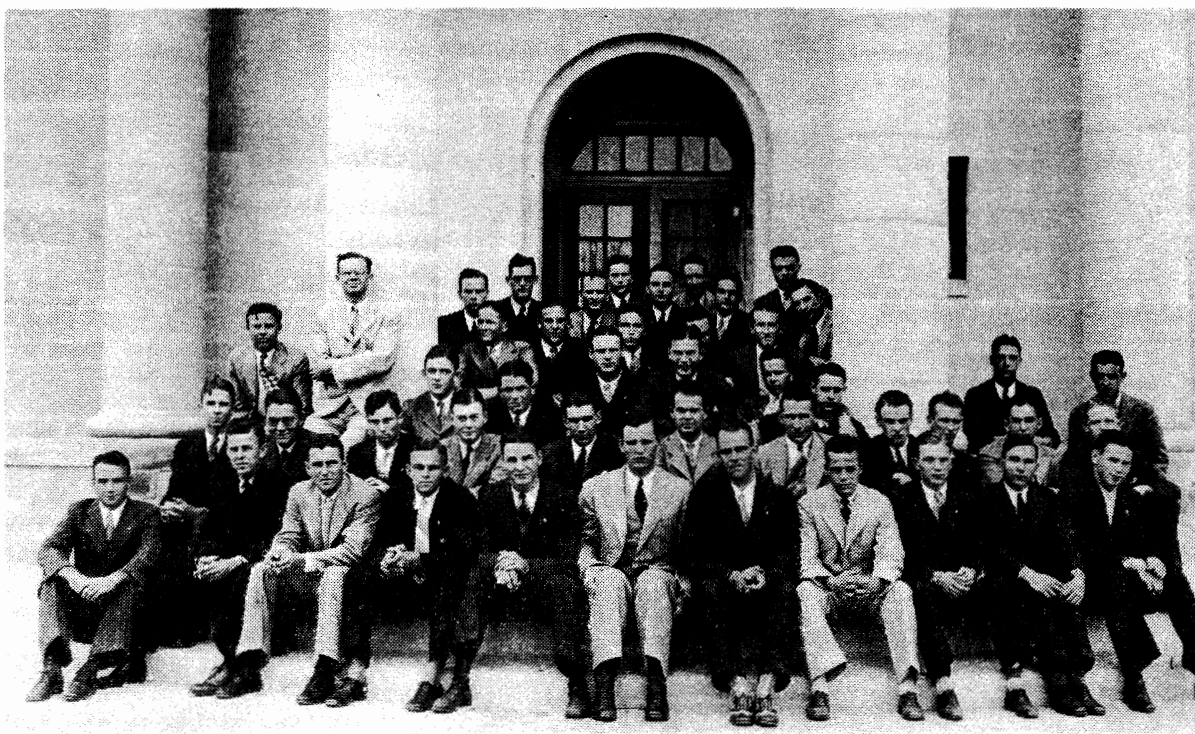
This senior class will long be remembered for its leadership, both on campus and within the chapter. Following in their footsteps is the pledge class of '84. They are continuing the tradition of high scholastics, intramural excellence and campus involvement set by their senior brothers.

In academics, they took first place among Greek pledge classes with a GPA of 2.93. Athletic showings have been outstanding in sports ranging from wrestling and swimming to golf and basketball.

Campus leadership has also benefitted from their attention; two members were elected to Student Congress, while one member was appointed to the IFC.

Together, they posted an outstanding year; their brothers are looking forward to tracking their achievements in the years ahead as they continue to carry on the winning Beta tradition.

*Scot Sullivan,*  
Pledge Class President  
*Chuck Knapp,*  
Outgoing President



**HISTORY IN THE MAKING:** Pictured are members of Gamma Phi Chapter in 1929. They were the first group to live in the "new" house at 800 Chautauqua. If memories need to be jogged, names are listed on page 2.

# Gamma Phi Looks at Our Alumni

## Edward Norfleet Jr. '75

Edward is senior attorney in charge of the Mid-Continent Legal Department of Diamond Shamrock Exploration Company in Amarillo, Texas.

He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1975 with a bachelor's degree, and went on to earn a degree in law in 1978. Edward married the former Julie Henderson, who is a 1977 graduate of OU and a Kappa Kappa Gamma sister. She was also a Little Sister to Sigma Alpha.

The couple now has two children; son Edward, 6, and daughter Emily, 3. The Norfleet family can be located for more information at 2407 S. Hayden, Amarillo, TX 79109.

## Brian G. Busby '80

Brian is a dentist in Perry, Oklahoma, where he and his father, Dr. W.W. Busby, share a practice. They have more in common, though, than professional interests and family genes; they're both Betas of Gamma Phi Chapter. Brian was initiated into the chapter in 1976, while his father was initiated in 1949.

Former classmates may recall that Brian graduated from the Oklahoma College of Dentistry in the top five of his class. He is married to the former Diana Niemackle, a registered nurse and graduate of Kansas State University.

Brian invites Beta brothers to "stop by his office anytime for a check-up" at 708 Cedar in Perry. Alumni who might like to avoid an 'office visit' can write to him instead at P.O. Box 1056, Perry, OK 73077.

## John S. Danner '43

Could the Danner family be

starting on its third generation of Betas?

Maybe so. John reports that his Beta son, Dr. Dan Danner, has just presented him and his wife with their first grandchild, a boy born September 23, 1984.

Congratulations can be sent to John (and Dan) at 3755 E. 48th Street, Tulsa, OK 74135.

## Charley F. Bartlett '21



'Buzz' became a Gamma Phi Beta in 1918, and his enthusiasm for supporting OU hasn't flagged.

"In 1963, my brother (Dr. M.S. Bartlett) and I bought a covered wagon and two white ponies and named the ponies 'Boomer and Sooner,'" Buzz reports. "The doctor and I founded the Doctor and Buzz Bartlett Foundation, Inc., which is in a position to keep the 'Sooner Schooner' pulling for the Sooners as long as OU fields a football team and (we) expect to do so."

When not rooting for the Sooners, Buzz helps his brother on a part time basis with the management of the Bartlett Memorial Hospital in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Beta brothers can get back in touch with Buzz by writing to Box 1288, Sapulpa, OK 74066.

## Peter Adamson III '63

The bonds of Beta brotherhood run deep, as evidenced by the partnership of 'Pete,' class of '63, and Larry Houchin, class of '72.

They joined talents to form Houchin, Adamson & Company, an investment banking firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In addition, they operate Irwin Securities Corporation, a discount brokerage firm serving banks, savings and loan associations and private investors.

Pete notes that he and his family, as well as the Houchin family, are living in Tulsa and can be contacted at 3847 E. 72nd Street, Tulsa, OK 74136.

## Martin E. Dyer '49

Martin is continuing the Beta Theta Pi tradition of leadership. He recently completed a term as mayor of the City of Ardmore in Oklahoma.

"Since graduation from OU law school in 1954, have been a partner in the law firm of Dyer & Dyer in Ardmore," he notes. "My wife, Phyllis, and I have two boys. The oldest graduated from OSU and is employed in Seminole. My youngest, Steve, graduated from Southeastern with a degree in accounting and is currently a freshman in the OU School of Law."

Catch up on the last 25 years by contacting Martin at P.O. Box 546, Ardmore, OK 73402.

## Alvan M. Muldrow Jr. '62

Alvan sends this note: "I am very pleased to report my older son is pledging our chapter," he says.

Former classmates can offer congratulations by writing to Alvan at 3207 41st Street, Lubbock, TX 79413.