Kappa Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha



1972-1976?? Goodbye to the old. Hello to the new

THAT BROTHERHOOD BUILT

By Rahul Agarwal Alfred '77



The Lambda Chi house continues to rise as Alfred brothers Jim Rausch and Greg Young work on the second floor. The Brothers of Kappa-Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha, at Alfred University, were faced with a big problem in early 1974. The university had decided to build a library on the site of our chapter's house, and the old house was going to be torn down. The almost fifty year old brotherhood suddenly seemed to have a very bleak future. Alumni corporation members Harrie Stevens, Bob Volk, Gary Horowitz, Gerry Lewis, and Tom Croft met with the active brothers to discuss the situation, and the idea of a new house was born.

An undertaking of such magnitude required a very large sum of money. On the strength of pledges made by the active brothers and the hopes of more help from the chapter's alumni, we obtained a one-hundredthousand dollar mortgage. The university leased us a very picturesque piece of land overlooking the Alfred Valley. By spring, the air was filled with the hum of chain saws as the brothers worked to clear away the site of our future home.

With our tight budget, there was no chance of our being able to afford a construction crew. We had to build the house ourselves. In charge of the whole operation was Dr. Harrie Stevens, professor of Glass Science at Alfred University. He was very ably assisted by Jim Rausch, Len Obergfell, Carl Shively, Greg Young, and

the father-son team of Adrian ("Matti") and Micky Matison. The manual labor force consisted of seniors Ernie Germano and Ken Christie, juniors Dave Cole and Russ Neydl, sophomore Chris Small and freshman Rahul Agarwal. Gary Delregno joined the crew a little later. This was the summer work force.

Work started in earnest in early June. Some of us were complete amateurs, but we learned quickly. Time was a big factor, since the possibility existed that our house would be torn down in the fall. Money being very tight, we had to save wherever we could. A lot of ditches that could have been dug mechanically were dug manually, since labor was so cheap. The laborers soon graduated to the ranks of carpenters and masons, and things really began to move along.

Every day saw new structures erected. We took everything in our stride, and a lot of mistakes were made. Often, entire frames had to be ripped apart. The plywood forms required to pour our cement back wall were delayed, there was a burglary at the site, Ernie Germano hurt his leg when some trusses fell over, and Micky and Matti were hospitalized due to a car accident. Work went on, however, and the house kept going up.

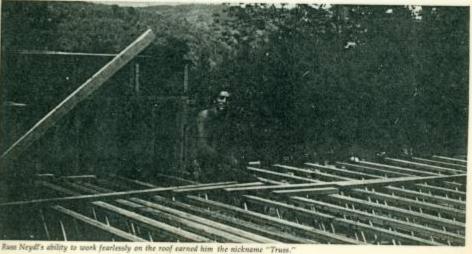
Each member of the summer crew was becoming a specialist. Harrie Stevens was not only foreman, but was also looking for ways to save money. Due to his diligence, the cost of constructing the house was cut by quite a few dollars. Len Obergfell, with the assistance of Ken Christie, did all the masonry work, and in the new chapter room he built one of the most beautiful fireplaces ever seen in the valley. Russ or, as he was later known, Truss Neydl was the only one with enough experience and courage to walk on the narrow trusses that held the ceiling up. Ernie Germano de-



Unloading trusses for the new house.



Part of the Kappa-Sigma Zeta summer construction crew. Front row (Left to Right) Rahul Agarwal, Russ Neydl, and Dave Cole. Second Row (Left to Right) Ernie Germano, Chris Small, and Micky and "Matti" Mattison.



Cross and Crescent/December 1978

veloped a quick and easy method of building irregular partitions. On Friday evenings, after a week of hard work, the whole summer crew sat around the construction site and made small talk over a few beers. A lot of work was accomplished over the summer, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Once school opened for the fall, work slowed down. The skeleton of the house with a roof over it was ready. We also had an extension of one semester to stay in the old house, so things were no longer so rushed. A group of professionals took over to complete the drywall work and the siding. Any time the brothers had to spare was spent at the site helping out, trying to get things finished.

Over the Christmas break, we started moving in. We were moving into a bare house, so there was still much more to be done. Painting, carpeting, paneling, and furniture had to be bought or built, even though we had salvaged everything of value from our old house.

By the time school started in January, there was a lot of work still being done, but the house was beginning to take on a "home" look. Each one of the fourteen large study rooms, with a bathroom between every two, was individually decorated by each brother, and the end result reflected a good bit of imagination and individuality. The very large party room is accented by a bar with a stone facade and an excellent stereo system. As the hallways and the chapter room were carpeted, the chapter room took on the look of a British country club, with its fireplace and trophy cabinet. The kitchen was completed with custom made cabinets. Although total square footage of the new house is less than the old house, superior designing has given us larger rooms. We have a larger chapter room and party room and still have a sleeping porch, T.V. room, laundry room, and other fratemity house necessities. The wood siding on the outside was stained to give the house a rustic appearance, and the area around the house has been cleared and graded.



Dedication, May 3, 1975: Grand High Beta S. George Dirghalli addresses members and guests. Seated are chapter High Alpha Mark Lynch, Alfred University President M. Richard Rose, and Hause Corporation President Robert Valk.



The finished product: the new home of Kappa-Sigma Zeta, Alfred University.

Kappa-Sigma Zeta dedicated its new chapter house on May 3, 1975.

The ceremonies were held in conjunction with the university's Parents' Weekend so that actives, alumni, and parents could participate in the celebration.

The Master of Ceremonics was High Alpha Mark Lynch, who spoke for the active chapter and who set the theme of the ceremony as dedication of a new structure and rededication of the brothers to the meaning of Lambda Chi Alpha. Brother Robert Volk, president of the alumni corporation, expressed the feelings of the alumni, while Dr. Richard Rose, President of Alfred University, spoke on behalf of the university community. Brother George Dirghalli was the main speaker, and he referred to Jonathan Livingston Seagull and the need of each to strive to become what he is capable of becoming.

At the conclusion of the formal speeches, Brother Lynch presented a plaque to be placed in a prominent position in the house, expressing the gratitude of the chapter to Brothers Harrie Stevens and Robert Volk for their efforts in planning and constructing the new house. The structure for 43 brothers went from ground breaking to completion within six months. Both men were cited for their long hours in allowing the dream to become reality.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were invited to a reception in the house. A dinner was held that night.

There will always be work to be done on the house so that we can maintain its beauty, but the brotherbood of this chapter can definitely stand back and look with pride at what we have accomplished.

The house was truly a big undertaking for college students, one which we successfully completed. All that remains is to pay the mortgage. But with the contributions coming in from alumni, active brothers, and various other fund raising programs, that bridge will soon be past us, too.

Cross and CrescentiDecember 1975 25





