

Heber Hiram Stephenson, Jr.

Miami '39

Oxford Cup Roll No. 035

The role of Hi Stephenson in Beta Theta Pi is unique. As General Fraternity Archivist since 1976, he is custodian of the Fraternity's museum as well as curator of its collections of documents and other treasures and coordinator of the John Reily Knox Memorial Library. In these capacities, he often is the first to greet visitors to the Foundation and Administrative Office.

For Hi, the position of Archivist is a volunteer job, and he has been part of a five-man committee planning the expansion and improvement of the archives and museum. Beta's fourth Archivist since 1870, he is the first "resident archivist," coming almost daily from his home to an office adjacent to the museum. The work follows him to a vacation home at Lakeside-on-Lake Erie, Ohio.

Born Aug. 19, 1916, in Jackson, Ohio, he was initiated Oct. 9, 1936, No. 638 on the Alpha chapter roll. He completed 1943-46 military service as a lieutenant in the Supply Corps of the Naval Reserve, all sea duty in the Pacific. In 1946, he returned to his alma mater to begin 31 years of student personnel staff work. He was Assistant Dean of Student Life for Housing Assignments and Administrative Services from 1973 until retirement in 1977.

He was faculty advisor and counselor for Alpha chapter and for several years was secretary and on the Board of The Alpha Chapter House Company. In 1995, he became the 12th inductee into the Alpha Chapter Hall of Fame.

As an undergraduate, he sang in the Alpha chapter quartet, the Alpha Centenary Choir and was alumni secretary. He was a member of the Men's Glee Club and Phi Mu Alpha, men's music honor society. He was active in the University YMCA and director of its Freshman Camp his senior year.

An Elder in the Oxford Presbyterian Church since 1951, for six years he was chairman of its Church School Board, for many years the church's clerk of session. He has intermittently sung in its chancel choir since undergraduate days. Furthermore, it is common knowledge among his friends and associates that when he is in town, a portion of each Thursday morning is blocked out for his traditional unofficial duty as proof-reader of the church bulletin.

In 1946, Hi was married in Orrville, Ohio, to the former Katharine Warner, Oberlin College graduate. They are parents of Edwin (Ned) Stephenson, *Tennessee '74*, and Mrs. James (Jeannette) Keton, Rockwall, Texas. Other Beta relatives: his father, the late Heber H. Stephenson, *Ohio State* 1906, and his uncle, the late Bertram S. Stephenson, *Ohio State* 1901, a district chief.

Hi was trustee and secretary of The Oxford Museum Assn., president of the Friends of the Library Society of Miami University, Republican Central Committeeman in Butler County and trustee and secretary of the Vereker Farm Condominium Assn., Oxford. With Mr. and Mrs. George Hill of Oxford, Hi and Kay are co-authors of an illustrated booklet, *Highlights of Historic Oxford*, 1969.