

Stanley Richard Church

Washington State '31

Oxford Cup Roll No. 045

Stan Church was a communicator. He perceived information needs, and he devoted his skills and resources toward their resolution. Toward such ends, he became an influential regional radio executive, an innovator in Beta activities of the Pacific Northwest and an originator of ideas in leadership.

Stan was inducted into Gamma Theta chapter May 26, 1928, younger brother of Wilbur Everett Church, *Washington State '27*. Unofficially, he was considered a member of two chapters: Gamma Zeta at Whitman had declared him an honorary member in 1981 when it invited him to attend a reunion of the chorus which had been featured at the 1939 Beta Centenary in Oxford. Then at Gamma Zeta's 75th anniversary, he was handed a nametag identifying him as *Washington State '31, Whitman '81*.

His first two years after leaving school, Stan was with a radio station in Montana, where there were no Beta chapters. Then he moved to Walla Walla, Wash., as manager of Station KUJ. There was a Beta alumni group which he joined. In 1932 he moved to Portland, Ore., and was elected secretary of its alumni group. Eventually, he would become a lawyer.

Stan originated the Northwest Beta Songfest, among chapters at Oregon, Oregon State, Whitman, Washington, Washington State, Idaho and British Columbia, in 1937. This popular contest, held alternately in Spokane, Seattle and Portland, continued until 1953, except for war years, and led to some of the largest assemblages in Beta history.

In 1939 he and his wife Gladys drove one of the cars in the Whitman Chorus Caravan to the Beta Centenary, where he also was elected one of three Convention vice presidents. In 1940 he was graduate chairman of an Interfraternity Conference at Oregon State for fraternities in all Western States.

He was named district chief for Oregon, Oregon State, Washington, Washington State and British Columbia in 1941, serving in that capacity through the war and until 1948. When Willamette University was opened to fraternities in the 1946-47 school year, he assisted in the installation of the Beta, Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Chi chapters there Jan. 3-4, 1947.

He was author of the *Wooglin, Dragon and Fraternal Fifties* ceremonies currently in use and assisted Dr. Peter J. Floriani, *Lehigh '77*, in authorship of *The Faithful Home of the Three Stars*, a 1989 compilation of the Fraternity's first 150 years and compendium of related information. His contributions to the book include "The Whitman Chorus — Road Trip to the Centenary," a section titled "Poetry" and a section titled "Rituals."

In 1953, he received a plaque from the Fraternity, recognizing his 65 years of membership and his devotion and service. In 1993, he was chosen vice president of the 154th Convention. At the 1996 Convention, his 18th, he was saluted as the Beta in attendance who had been a member longest — 66 years.

Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, General Fraternity Historian