

PENNSYLVANIA THETA

# Phi Kappa Psi





## Moving on . . . a message from our chapter president, Lewis Kurland, '73

In the Spring of 1971 plans were laid for the relocation of Phi Kappa Psi's chapter house from its age old setting near Markie Hall to a new location on March Field.

Upon completion of the dramatic move, renovations began in an attempt to transform an aging structure into a modern home while preserving the elegant beauty and tradition of years gone by. The cramped, dingy, basement kitchen was changed into a modern, fully equipped center located off the diningroom area. The ancient carpets of the halls and public areas were discarded and replaced with functional wall-to-wall carpeting. The halls were paneled, thus giving the appearance of a contemporary home. New rooms were added, including a modern, spacious basement which functions both as a recreation and party area.

The finished creation can best be described through the words of a freshman who was overheard saying, "Phi Psi . . . Oh you mean the new house over on March Field!" It is true that the Barr is now an inviting, polished structure of which all Phi Psi's can rightfully be proud. Yet it must be remembered that our success in the move and renovation could not have been a reality without the help of that factor which is intrinsic in the accomplishment achieved by any group of fraternity undergraduates — the alumni of the fraternity. In the case of Pennsylvania Theta, it is obvious that it was the strength of the alumni working in conjunction with the undergraduates that made a successful transformation of the Chapter house possible.

Now it remains the duty of the undergraduates to move the fraternity in such a manner that it will be able to maintain and perhaps build on the traditional dynamics which have been inherent in Pennsylvania Theta. With perseverance and the help of our Brothers, we are confident that years of greatness lie ahead for the Pennsylvania Theta chapter of Phi Kappa Psi.



### the cover . . .

Surrounding Phi Kappa Psi (clockwise from top left) are Brothers Paul, Steve, Ray, Bob, Winks, Lew, Dutch, Rick, Eddy and Bob.

Paul, Ray, Winks, Dutch and Eddy were photographed in 1919.



**"Take a left at the corner, then a right, and keep on going straight; you can't miss it."** *everything you always wanted to know about moving a fraternity house, but were afraid to ask . . .*

During the summer of 1971 Phi Kappa Psi's 62 year old chapter house was moved approximately 1000 feet to its new location on March Field. The move of the "Old Gray Barn" marked the end of a long era of uncertainty and the beginning of a new chapter in the fraternity's history. After years of negotiation with Lafayette College the Alumni Association of Phi Kappa Psi accepted, with the overwhelming support of the undergraduate brothers, a proposal that would satisfy the interests of all concerned. The "Old Gray Barn" would be saved and renovated and the college would have the tract of land needed for the future expansion of Skillman Library. Only one problem was left unresolved: Could the house indeed be moved? It is said that one bidder drove past the house and from the window of his car yelled, "No way, no way." Needless to say everyone had a degree of doubt. Everyone, it seemed, except C. Van Howling Co. of Wallington, New Jersey. They approached the task with the kind of confidence a surgeon might exhibit on a routine tonsillectomy. It was simply another building that had to be moved. And while it is

true that each building has its own unique problems there was never any deviation from the rather simple approach and procedure designed to move the 550 ton structure.

In mid-May of 1971 the preparation began for the move. All appliances, furniture and chapter records were transferred from the basement of the house to safe storage. With this completed the interior walls of the basement were demolished. At the same time a trench was dug around the perimeter of the



Brothers Art Stoumbelis, Bob Chace and Darb Duryea (all '72).

house and the land in route of the building's journey leveled. By mid-June the house was ready for Van Howling to begin work. On a rainy day nine workers, including three undergraduate Phi Psi's hired by the movers, began drilling holes into the foundation of the house; two large holes on each side of the house and fourteen each on the back and front. Through these holes were placed I-Beams to support the weight of the house and eventually act as a flat bed for the house to move on. When the I-Beams were set into place and shored, wheel assemblies were moved under them and

hydraulic jacks secured between the wheel assemblies and the beams. Finally, on a hot June day, pumps began to move the jacks and a crack appeared along the bottom of the house. A crack that said Phi Kappa Psi was no longer sitting on precious ground next to the library but was now a 56 wheel vehicle temporarily parked in front of Markle Hall.

Early on June 30, steel cables attached to three large winches mounted on heavy trucks were connected to the beams and the "Old Gray Barn" moved its first inches down a road of wood. "Corduroy Road" became the nickname for the bed of planks positioned from the original site to March Field. Teams of workers picked up the "road" as the house traveled over it and laid it again in front for the next segment of the journey. In all it took only three working days for the house to move the 1000 feet. On July 8, the new site was completed and the house was set in place for its new domain on March Field. A monumental feat had been completed and a new life for an "Old Gray Barn" began.





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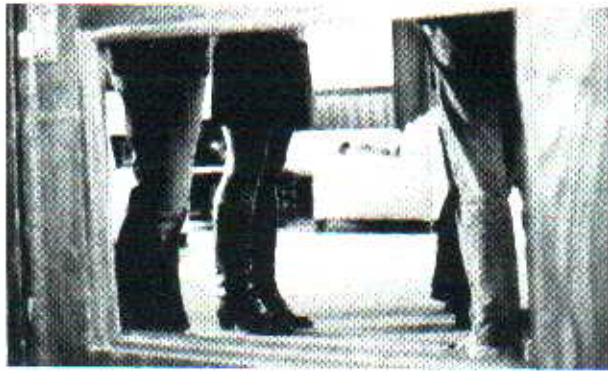
## *The move in pictures:*

1. Prior to the move all the land in route of the house's journey had to be leveled. Unfortunately one rather old tree and two pines had to be removed.
2. The first few feet of the move were indeed the most exciting. At top speed the house moved at about 2 miles per hour.
3. Five trucks with heavy duty winches pulled the house several yards, moved ahead and pulled again. This process continued throughout the move.
4. "Double parked" on Sullivan Lane, the first day's work included 11 hours of 100 degree temperature, large crowds and a few confused pigeons. At 6:00 p.m. the exhausted workers broke open a case of beer and consumed it in the shade — under the house.
5. The second day of the move took the house to March Field, where it sat for several days until the new site was completed.
6. During the second day several television stations and newspapers covered the event. Features were carried in all the surrounding communities as well as Philadelphia and New York.
7. When the new site was finished the move was completed in one day and DKE once again had a familiar neighbor.



# Standing firm.

*after years of negotiating Phi Psi entered one of the most dramatic renovating campaigns the campus has seen.*



Although the renovation of the chapter house took considerably longer than expected the results were well worth waiting for. In the fall of 1971 a list of priorities was compiled by the undergraduate Brothers and submitted to the Alumni Association of Phi Kappa Psi. It was the belief then that the entire list would not be accepted due to the high cost of renovation. However, not only were all the priorities listed acted upon, but several additional targets of renovation were added. The entire program ultimately touched every corner of the house in some respect.

It is difficult to site the most dramatic area of renovation as each Brother visualizes the chapter house from a different perspective. Certainly the new basement and kitchen represent a tremendous change. However, to some Brothers just a fresh coat of green paint has made all the difference in the world. There is one point that seems to find unanimous agreement — The chapter house is one of the most comfortable and beautiful houses on campus.

Now that the move and renovation are completed the Brothers are able to concentrate their efforts on continuing the proud tradition of Phi Kappa Psi and presenting to the college not only a chapter house but a Brotherhood that is standing firm.



## MAJOR POINTS OF RENOVATION

1. Rewiring of the entire electrical system
2. Independent heating system
3. Finished basement — including panelled walls, suspended ceiling and tile floor.
4. New Chapter room
5. New Officer's room
6. New laundry room
7. New Pantry including walk-in cooler
8. New Bar
9. Fire Tower housing one single room, one bedroom and the kitchen.
10. New Kitchen — including new freezer, refrigerator, range deep fat fryer and dishwasher.
11. Fire escape
12. Fire doors on second and third floors
13. Wall-to-wall carpeting throughout the house
14. Panelling on second and third floors
15. Suspended ceiling on second and third floors
16. New windows everywhere
17. New doors everywhere
18. New wardrobes in every bedroom
19. New parking lot and landscape
20. Exterior painting.







Our new kitchen is probably the best on campus



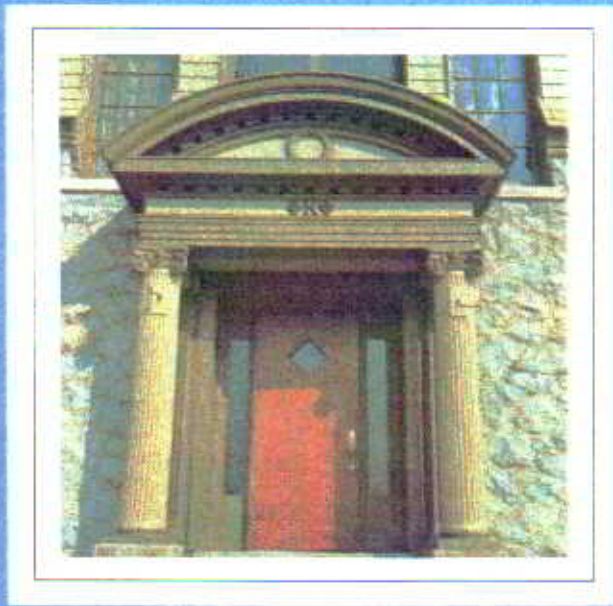
The new 3rd floor single



Back of house with new fire escape, fire tower and large parking lot.







*The undergraduate brothers of Phi Kappa Psi would like to take this opportunity to thank the Alumni Association, its members and all the brothers who helped to make the move and renovation of our chapter possible.*