

Enjoyed notes from Rae Marie. She grew up 2 blocks away from our home with her brother Scott at about the same time as my children. I was honored to have her mother and father as friends. Her father, "Chuck" was a best friend growing up across the street from me on Westwood Avenue during the late 20's, thirties, and early 40's. We were of course Rooks together. I believe he was a year ahead of me and Cam Swart was president during one of those years. Those were depression years (we really didn't know it until years later) and war years. Chuck and I both went off to the army and served along with most of the other brothers of that era.; I was fortunate enough to get back from Europe unscathed but a number of our brothers paid the ultimate price and are true heroes. Rooks proudly served in the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Corps. We had memorable times during meetings at the house on Monday nights. Carefully carved barrel stave paddles were supplied by the pledges who then received the business end. In those meetings we considered ourselves living on the edge by smoking cigars (I never got up the nerve)..Initiations were creative events and were dreaded during the pledge years but turned out to be a lot of fun and resulted in real bonding. We had wonderful dances, and I never witnessed any behavior that was out of line. Ted Eaton was an advisor being either an original Rook or at least a devoted one whose wisdom help guide us. His memory should always be honored. The current owner of that house must have the best oak floors in the county because as pledges we waxed them every Saturday. Pledges war caps and had to do 3 "cuckoos" when an active pointed to them on the way to school or playground. So many of my class have gone west but I will always remember those wonderful days which were enriched by the friendships and ideals fo the brotherhood. I attempted to change the withdraw of our charter when I called the president of the schoolboard and was saddened by their stand. I feel that the school was a better place for having the fraternity and sororities. It is wonderful to have this dialogue underway and sharing memories.

Dr Tom Williams

Class 1943