

ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. H. M. Devolt (281) '22

After spending 7 years at Cornell as a student in the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, Graduate School and member of the faculty, 40 years were devoted to the University of Maryland at College Park. I developed a statewide blood testing system and established one of the first laboratories for diagnosis and control of poultry diseases.

In the 14th year of retirement and as an octogenarian my time is spent in reading scientific textbooks and literature, music, a limited amount of golf and collecting electronic games.

George L. Mueller (574) '57

We have just graduated our oldest son, Dwight, from A&M University. He plans to go on to Dental School in the Fall of '81. Our son Mark, is at West Point in his Plebe year. Our youngest son, Chris, is in his freshman year at San Houston State University. I am working at S.I.P. Engineering Inc. in Houston as a project manager and my wife Claudia is working for an Electrical Contractor. I am also a Deacon at the First Baptist Church of Laporte, Texas.

Ed Francis (673) '65

Rich Magnacca (677) and his wife Sandy are living in Newton, Mass. with their two children (Karl and Lisa). He is still shorter than I, and everytime I call, he is taking a nap.

Bill Evenans (672) is practicing patent law in New York City but he has changed companies again, again, and again.

Tim Fullam (674) is in "charge" of the computer service at Univ. of Alaska. But what has happened to John Bittance (686), the Walker Brothers (681, 696) and Hollistor Moore (702).

Richard K. McMurtry (701) '67

I ran into Dave Odegaard (743) on business recently and he told me that Al Berger (726) had turned into a "radical." Is that true?

Three new things in my life are: (1) I was successful in converting my job into a four day, 32 hour week, (2) I joined the La Pena Community Chorus, (3) I've been active in the Friday evening and holiday celebrations of the Aquarian Minyan, a Jewish religious group which seeks to enrich the tradition of Jewish form, culture, and spirituality.

Carl H. Herzoy (711) '66

I work for Esso Exploration and production oil in London on the design of North Sea Offshore production facilities. I have not run into any Acacians. I would enjoy meeting anyone passing through, and can be reached at (01)-660-6055

Alan H. Becker (684) '66

On June 2, 1973 I got married. My wife's name is Beth and we have one son, Jon Alan Henry.

In 1974, I left my job as an officer with the Swiss Bank Corp. (there were just too many other token Americans) and entered the Life and Health Insurance business. For several years now, I have been associated with another agent in a General Agency for Bankers Security Life Insurance Society. Next month, we are acquiring the business of another Bankers Security G.A. This will make me a Brokerage Supervisor with some Brokers to supervise for a change, and should be very interesting as well as challenging.

Stephen G. Wagner (847) '76

I was married this fall to a lovely psychologist named Marilyn. It's handy to have your own live-in shrink. We bought a house in Columbus which keeps me busy when I'm not barricaded in the law library cramming for exams.

Stuart Cain (875) '79

I am in my second year as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroun. I am really enjoying my work as a teacher here in Manfe and it is proving to be a very rewarding experience for me.

William Bethke (851)

I am currently going through a six-month training program at IBM. Much of my time is spent working as Chapter Advisor with UCLA Acacia. They've been without a house since they re-colonized two years ago, and yet they are a strong group of about 20 that rushes successfully on a campus where every fraternity has a house.

Joseph M. Schussler (872) '80

And my biggest gripe: I write at least a dozen letters to people in the house and I don't even get a listing in the "Alumni News." I know I was mentioned by BGS and WBH III, but how about my own spot. I love to see my name in print!

(Editor: There you go Joe, I hope you like it.)

Arthur C. T. Huston (898)

About a month ago I started work at Instant Software Inc. For you Computer Jocks, it's an offshoot of Kilobaud and '80 magazine. My job title is software reviewer. I'm a quasi-programmer.

George Waskosky (860) '79

I'll finish pilot training in Texas around May 81. From there I hope to get a fighter in Europe.

Frank Mrowka (782) '73

Our second child, a daughter, was born May 21, 1980. Her name is Tekla Ann and is a joy to the entire family. I have received cards from Stan Niman, and Dave Frost.

Gary Hay (867) '80

My graduate life here at Princeton is both better and worse than the 4 years I spent at Cornell and Cornell Acacia. The party life here is very restricted unless one is a wealthy Princeton preppie. I am also still living a life of relative poverty. The bright side is that my life and studies are less structured, allowing me to make more trips out of Princeton.

After just completing a department transfer to the Plasma Physics Dept. I am only beginning my first year experimental project. It will begin with an analysis of tokamak descriptions in the newest Princeton tokamak.

(Editor: For you readers who don't know what a Tokamak is, join the club.)

Dr. Henry T. Skinner (318) '36

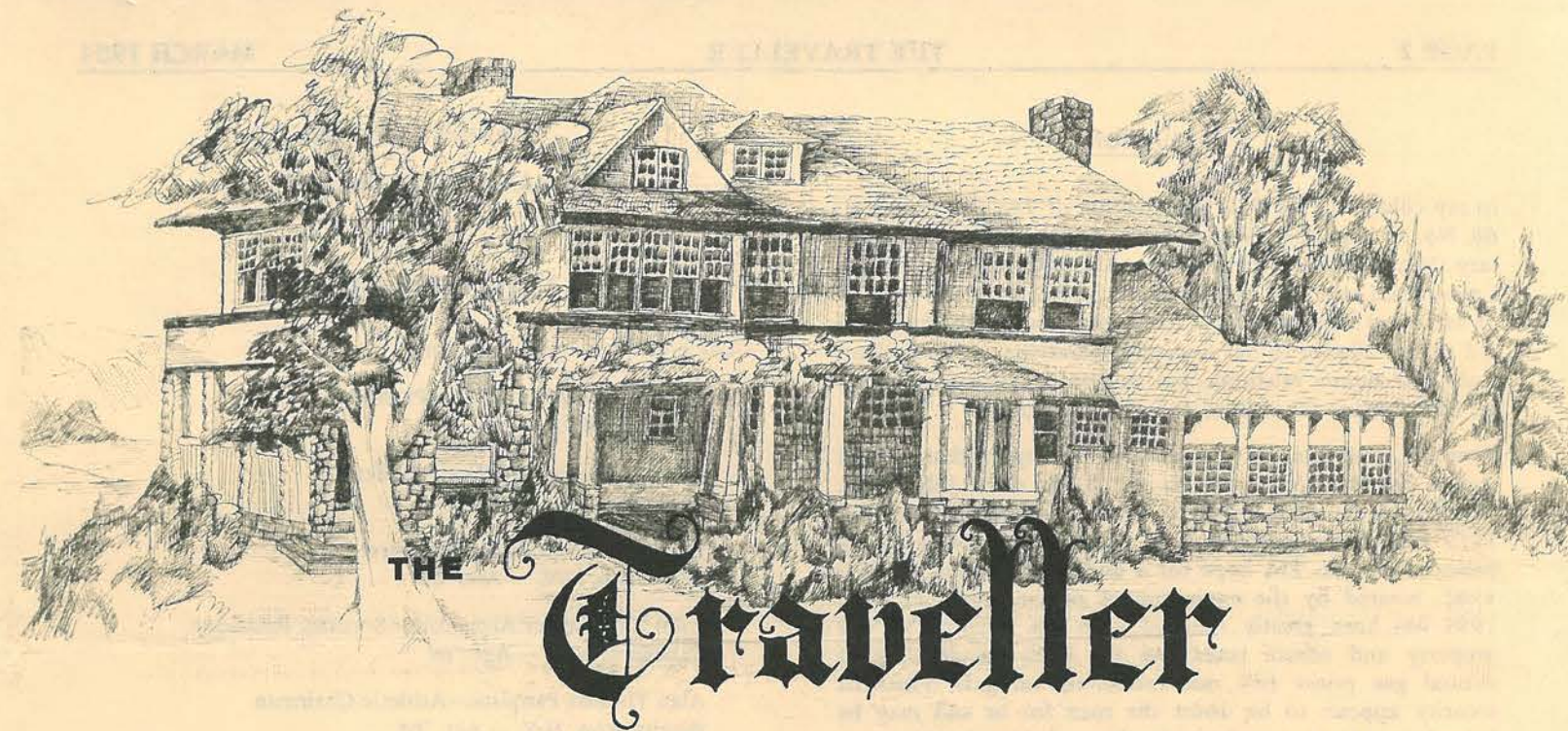
Retirement in these North Carolina mountains remains as pleasant as ever, and as attractive as it also seems to be to some fellow Acacians. Meeting at the bridge table, we were surprised to find that Ed Congdon (class of 36 or 37?) is a nearby Indian Hills neighbor, also to hear that Bob Reid (of our same vintage) soon expects to be up this way in lieu of his present location in Atlanta, Ga. But we do occasionally get farther afield—to visit our daughter, a medic in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, to bask for a week or two in Florida's recent coolness of, come May, to take in Englands' Chelsea Flower Show—an occasional pleasant necessity for this rather long-time vice president of the Royal Horticultural Society.

You doubtless have record of the death of Rufus J. Vail at Menlo Park, Calif., on November 3rd last. His ever breezy outlook and sense of dry humor will be remembered by most Acacians of the mid 30's.

MARRIED? NEW JOB? MOVED?
HOW DO WE KNOW IF YOU DON'T WRITE?

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We regret to inform the Brotherhood of the passing of Brother Rufus Jennings Vail Esq. (370) '43 and Brother Robert L. Petrie (374) '40. They will be sadly missed by all of us.



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A THOUGHT FOR THOUGHT

Twelve bright new prospects. That is what we have, twelve potentially excellent Acacia pledges. It is just the beginning of pledging, much too early to make any promises, but I am very hopeful.

In general, pledging this year will be like most years of the past: particulars, pledge manuals, phone duties, etc. A new addition this year will be a small pledge human service project. It is really an experiment at this point, to see if it can be included successfully in future pledge programs.

If anything is really different this year, I am hoping it will be on the side of the brothers. Over the years, I fear that pledging has lost some of its meaning. In some cases, it not only has lost some meaning, but has taken on the wrong meaning. I think the ritualistic activities involved in becoming an Acacian act as a double-edged sword. They are supposed to preserve the original ideas of what Acacia should be, something to hold over from one class to the next. Words on a page cannot by themselves preserve the ideals of Acacia, active minds are required, too. Just experiencing the ritual and reading the pledge manual does not make a pledge an Acacian. We cannot sit back and expect ritual or tradition to carry the pledges through pledgship. We have to know what we are doing, why the ritual is as it is, and the exact purpose behind each aspect of pledging. We have to be proud of what we are, not because it says so in our credo, but because we believe that what we are, and what we are trying to do, is an admirable thing. That is what I am hoping will be special about this pledge program; the attitude of the brothers. With the new prospects that we have, a successful pledging period will necessarily follow upon the heels of an aware self-consistent, self-directed brotherhood.

It will be interesting to see what happens. Come by on April 9th through 12th for initiation and see.

James Skiff (879)

THANK YOU, ACACIA—YOU'RE THE BEST!

Three and a half years ago, ten young men made a decision that would change their lives forever—they chose to sign written bids from Acacia. I was one of those young men, and I can honestly say that it was one of the best things that I ever did.

Acacia has changed me in ways too numerous to count. Where else could one meet someone like Pearl Murray, who has brought so much happiness into our lives, and at the same time has been a conscience with a razor-sharp cutting edge? Where else could I party until 4:00 in the morning, then go out and play Ultimate Frisbee the next day?

Through the offices of Jr. Dean and Steward, Acacia has taught me organizational skills, and the necessity of being able to work with people, even those with whom you do not get along. It has also taught me a lot about responsibility and seeing a job through, but at the same time Acacia has given me many, many moments of great satisfaction.

Most of all, Acacia is the brothers. I would not trade these friendships for anything in the world, because they have shown me some of the greatest people I have ever known.

From the highs of Spring Weekend 1978, to the low of Barry Davis' death last September, and everything in between, Acacia has given me more than I could ever hope to give back. I can only wish the same for every Acacia brother, present and future. Thank you, Acacia—you're the best.

Paul Herrington (882)

SUMMER WEEKEND
Saturday July 10-12, 1981. BE THERE.

EVALUATION

In my column in the Fall 1980 edition of *The Traveller* (Vol. 68, No. 1) I spoke of Cornell Acacia's upcoming 75th anniversary (May 1982) and my hopes for Acacia through the 1980's. I mentioned several of the challenges facing us and the urgency of attacking these problems forthright. Six months have passed since I alluded to our financial operations, physical plant, rush, and alumni relations, and an honest evaluation of how we have fared so far in these endeavors is in order.

First off, our finances. I am happy to report that Cornell Acacia has been operating in the black since July 1980. Though we are a far cry from our financial debacles of fall 1979 and spring 1980, we are still operating on a tightly balanced budget. The hope for a budgetary surplus in 1981-1982, created by the expiration of our mortgage in April 1981 has been greatly reduced with the doubling of our property and school taxes and the likely quadrupling of natural gas prices (we run exclusively on gas). Financial security appears to be down the road for us and may be helped along by increased membership and alumni support.

The physical plant has remained relatively unchanged this year. Though we added a new carpet thanks to a successful carpet drive, no large-scale improvements were made to the house. With the exception of one freezer, we were fortunate that no heavy-duty equipment or furnishings expired this year. But as much of our equipment is past its prime, our luck is sure to turn for the worse. The next 5 to 10 years will require and hopefully see a substantial investment in renovating bathrooms, kitchen, and the common areas.

Rush this year went well but could certainly have been better. We took in 12 men this fall. Combined with our 17-man class of last year, we have a 14-man average over the last two years—substantially better than the recent past. Nonetheless, there is an urgent need to increase the size and quality of our pledge classes further. (The average fraternity took in 15 pledges this rush season, with the continuing trend of the large houses getting larger and the small houses getting smaller.) Our hope is to be pledging at least 15 athletically, academically, and socially astute men a year. The dynamic growth of Acacia depends virtually entirely on this.

I have saved speaking about you, the alumni, for last because in many ways you are at the core of our goals. Each of the areas of rush, finances, physical plant, and alumni are intimately linked together. A solid physical plant and finances encourages a solid rush. The House Corporation and other alumni ensure a solid physical plant and bolster our finances. Your importance to Cornell Acacia is obvious. Thank you for your continued support.

George Derby ('81)
President

WHY DON'T YOU DROP US A LINE?

WE DON'T BITE I PROMISE!

SPRING WEEKEND.LET'S MAKE IT A FAMILY AFFAIR.THE COMING AND GOING

The brothers proudly welcome:

Brian Andrew Stroehlein—President
Boonton, N.J. — Engr. '84

David John Sngree—Vice President
Craigville, MA — Hotel '84

Jonathan Adam Olick—Treasurer
New York, N.Y. — Arts '84

John Christopher Armstrong—Sorority Relations
Caneadea, N.Y. — Agr. '84

Alan Thomas Pasquino—Athletic Chairman
Binghamton, N.Y. — Agr. '84

Lane John Abrams
Pittsburg, PA — Engr. '84

Curtis Bremer Alliaume
Summit, N.J. — Arts '84

Martin Scott Cardinali
Bluffton, IN — Arts '84

Bruce Michael Lairson
Noble, OK — Arts '83

Lawrence Patrick McSorley
East Stroudsburg, PA — Arch. '85

David John Nevarez
Westminster, CA — Engr. '84

William Michael Wong
Deer Park, N.Y. — Agr. '84

And, bid a fond farewell to:

Jeffrey Che-jui Chung
Broomall, PA — Civil Engineering

George Derby
East Northport, N.Y. — Computer Science

John Thomas Friedlander, Jr.
Hibiscus Harbor, N.Y. — Government

John Marshall Graham
Upper Brookville, N.Y. — Physics

Richard Kwak-leung Han
Hong Kong — Computer Science

Paul Clifford Herrington
Johnsville, N.Y. — Dairy Science

David Douglas Nolte
Englewood, CO — Physics

James Martin Skiff
Castleton, N.Y. — Biology

SHORTER RUSH PROGRAM

Though rush went well this year, many of the brothers feel that we should be able to take a larger class. With a lot of hard work and long range planning, the numbers of 30 or 40 per pledge class would not be unreasonable!

Thus plans were put into action this year. Local alum Alan Grant '77 has pledged Alpha Gamma Rho and next year more local alumni will join other houses both to thwart their rush programs and send more of their rushies to Acacia in a double ended thrust.

One main problem with a larger pledge class is the fact that the house can only hold about thirty-five brothers. Rather than have brothers live out, we have decided to rush midgets. While it is true that you take a smaller pledge class that way, at least they'd always look up to their elders. Rush would be shorter. Economically it would definitely be an advantage. We could fit two to a bed and they eat less too! Besides that we'd be the only house at Cornell with that image. Our pledges would be clearly recognizable all over campus. During rush they'd have no problem making small talk. This way, the upper classmen could all be big men around the house.

Combined with our new "rush-by-mail" program (each freshman male in U-Halls get their own postcard schedule of events so that we never have to set foot in a U-Hall), we feel that you'll see a new Acacia next year. Send any further suggestions to "Shorter Rush," c/o ACACIA.

John M. Graham '81
John T. Friedlander '81

HUMAN SERVICE

The active chapter is proud of this year's human service program, the first of its kind in New York State and possibly the U.S. of A. For two years, we have applied to New York State Division for Youth for a young man who has had problems adjusting to growing up either in his family life or through getting into trouble with the law. This young man would need a place to grow and gain some of the attention, help and consideration he has never had.

Fortunately, we have had living in the house this semester John Vassalotti, age 16, who came from a group home to live in the house. He is working for All-Star Mechanics in Ithaca and attending Cascadilla High School. Scott Dulman, Dan Merrill, Tim Thom, Jim Skiff, Ethan Cosgriff and myself are in charge of ensuring that he assumes and carries out all his responsibilities and helping him with any problems he might encounter.

So far, everything is working out fine, as we work out minor disagreements and start to get used to having a 16 year old "little brother" in the house. I think that everyone will benefit from this unique experience. John will learn how to live in a large family environment, with the responsibilities that go with the privileges. The brothers will learn that through relating experiences, listening to a little advice, and sacrificing some time, we can gain a lot of satisfaction from this adventure. We all believe that by undertaking this responsibility as "foster

parents" we can truly live up to the preamble and purpose of this fraternity, and furthermore gain self-satisfaction from a worthwhile endeavor. We welcome "J. J.," our younger brother!

Andrew Mercer, Foster Parent (890)

The *TRAVELLER* is for YOU
Please SUPPORT it
WRITE! !

MOOSEHEAD: OH DEER

Yes, we have finally found out what happened to the moosehead, thanks to Ed Francis (673) who wrote: "the 'moosehead' to which you refer was given to the house in February of 1965. It was purchased in a second hand shop somewhere on the road midway between Ithaca and Binghamton, but I always told the brothers that my great grandfather had shot it in the wilds of Maine. The story sounded good, and the head looked better, so it hung in the commons area for about two years. I don't remember exactly what happened to it, but it seems that it was stolen . . . at any rate it was a deerhead, not a moose."

BEEN TO A PIG ROAST LATELY?
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

SPRING WEEKEND MAY 15 AND 16
(See Social Calender)

ACACIA CORPORATION

The 1980-81 school year has been a good year for the Corporation. Although still in the red financially it looks like we will break even by November. The mortgage will be paid off in April and despite the doubling of our property taxes we will still be able to start building up some savings next year.

The house is getting old but seems to be in good shape. Storm windows were added this fall and there have been no major problems with the physical plant. However because of its age it is important that we build up savings to take care of the problems that are bound to occur.

The annual meeting of the Corporation will be held May 17 at 11:30. This is the Sunday of Spring Weekend and we have tried to schedule the meeting early enough to accommodate those of you who will have to leave early and late enough so that those of us who over celebrate Saturday night have time to recover. We hope many of you will attend as there will be much to discuss.

The most important topic will be plans for our 75th anniversary which occurs next year. Since we have a vigorous active chapter and by then the mortgage will be paid off, the Corporation will be operating in the black and the future looks promising we want to have a real celebration. We need your ideas.

MARRIED? NEW JOB? MOVED? HOW DO WE KNOW IF YOU DON'T WRITE?

HOMEcoming 1981-NOVEMBER 7

CORNELL vs. YALE

Why not come by and see how the Chapter is doing? This weekend is for you, the more that come the better it will be. Why not contact people in your class and try to get a reunion together. If any of you wish to try this contact us, we will be happy to provide addresses and phone numbers. Give it a try, you may be surprised at the response.

MEMORIAL FUND

As "memorialized" in the last *Traveller*, Brother Barry Alan Davis was killed in a car crash. The brotherhood established a fund in his memory to which actives, alumni, and relatives of Barry contributed generously. The chapter was able to purchase a new ping pong table and a new color TV, redo the pool table, buy much needed pool cues, and a plaque will be erected commemorating these purchases. Special thanks to Bruce Schneider, Joe Schussler, Mike Fried, Phil Schuler, and Louis Schwartz for their donations, and an extra special thank you to Dave Aster for his generosity, and to all the active brothers. Thank you, all.

Andrew Mercer (890)



PLEDGE CLASS Larry, Alan, Brian, Curtis, Jon, Bruce, Dave, Dave, Lane, Bill, John, Scott,

EDITOR TALKS

I am sorry that this issue of the *Traveller* is not as long as the last. The previous 14 page issue was put together in the hopes that by seeing how your money would be used you would be generous in sending in your Alumni dues. Unfortunately this was not the case and so the luxury of a large newsletter could not be repeated. As it is I am lucky I had enough money to produce an issue this size. Quite a bit of material had to be cut and the section in the last *Traveller*, with letters from Alumni, had to be dropped completely. To those of you who write I must apologize and ask that you keep on writing. I found them quite interesting and the Brotherhood likes to keep in touch with you.

SOCIAL CALENDAR—SPRING '81

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| April | |
| 7 | Date Night |
| 9/10/11/12 | INITIATION |
| 14 | Little Sister Dance |
| 17 | Good Friday |
| 18 | Easter/Passover |
| 21 | Exchange Dinner |
| 25 | Parents' Weekend: Cayuga's Waiters, Casino Night |
| May | |
| 2 | Picnic: Taughannock—Baseball: Syracuse Chapter |
| 2 | Square Dance |
| 9 | Phi Psi 500 |
| 12 | Little Sister Dinner |
| 15 | SPRING WEEKEND: swim party—TC3 |
| 16 | SPRING WEEKEND: picnic—Buttermilk dinner—Buttermilk formal—Acacia Chapter House band |
| 19 | Finals begin |
| 31 | Commencement (PJG's b/day) |

CUPIDS CORNER

Morris A. Jette Jr. engaged to Merriam Wakakuwa
 Stephen G. Wagner married to Marilyn ?

L. S. PLEDGES

With our first season of open rush under our belt, we have found that by using a format similar to brother rush, we can successfully enlarge the Little Sister program. This semester we are in the process of pledging three wonderful women who will soon become Little Sisters 14-16 (roll no.'s). They are Beatrice Schwartz ('81), Linda Kane ('84), and Lisa Davidson ('83). These three women will add some spice to the Little Sister program, which after completing its third year in existence is well established at the house. Congratulations also to Valerie Propati—an Honorary Little Sister.

Andrew Mercer (890)

JOCK'S KORNER

Despite our smaller than average membership, the house fielded many competitive sports teams this year. Our football team won the league title, led by a defense that allowed NO points during the season. We have also been successful on other fields of play, our soccer team held their own against some of the very best.

Through the tough Ithaca winter, our athletes refused to hibernate. The Acacia Fencing team pointed the way by winning first place in the fraternity and open divisions, and the hockey team has made it into the championships. (Results will be announced.)

We hope to do even better this spring with the help of our new pledges. Until next time, this is me, signing off.

Ken Weiss (902)

THE COUNTY PLANNER

John Ahlfeld (649) would be out of his meeting between twelve and one. The meeting was over at 12:05 pm. His secretary told him that I would be waiting for him. I had no idea of what he looked like, so I had to trust that she was directing me to the right person.

Well, two Acacians met that day in January in the Lancaster County Planner's office. One of them was the county planner himself. This meeting was not entirely by chance. I knew that John was the county planner, but that was not why I had come to see him. To meet one of our alumni and to talk fraternity was why I had looked John up.

We shook hands, I introduced myself and we talked about the expensive fourteen page *Traveller* you received in November. We also discussed Alumni contacting each other and returning together for Initiation, Spring Weekend, Summer Weekend, Homecoming and other social activities.

John had lived in the Bay Window and Limbo rooms, and in the Circle Ten house while the Wing was being built. He explained how the area where the main house and the wing join used to look like. John was at Cornell for Architecture and then a Masters in Planning. During his time there, he was also married and now has three children.

A piece of trivia that I learned was that there had been a painting contest in the recreation room for the sororities. I've forgotten who won. Rush was also different; there was no contact between freshmen and fraternity upperclassmen during the fall semester, only in the spring.



Results of Painting Contest? Who Won?

I told John that our chat would be an interview for the *Traveller*, but I took no notes. This is but a brief overview of my meeting with John, what I remember best though was the overall feeling of bringing parts of the fraternity together. John didn't ask me to read my brother card, nor did we shake the fraternity handshake, but his memories and his current activities told me that he was a real Acacian. I hope to talk with John again someday and with other alumni. Frank Menkin (656) is also in Lancaster, but was unavailable when I was there.

At the end of our talk, John told me that he was impressed that I had stopped by to see him. My only thought was, "He's the county planner, impressed? I'm the one that's impressed."

Timm Thom (887) Agr. '82

THE TRAVELLER is published by the actives to keep you informed. Let us know about what is new with you! Photos and articles of interest are always welcome! Direct all communications to: Acacia Fraternity, c/o SMC-Alumni Services, Willard Straight Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853. House Phone: (607) 257-7055.

ACACIA'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

At 83, August Rittershausen is remembered as "Mr. Ritt," the stern yet personable principal of Nyack High School. For 34 years he ruled the halls of that school, retiring in 1965.

He was born in Youngsville, N.Y. in 1897, and grew up on his father's farm. But he didn't like the farm, and he didn't like school. So he quit both at age 14. But he found that prospects were limited for a Sullivan County farm boy with nothing more than an 8th grade education. So after two years, he returned to his father's farm and his town's one room school-house.

"Finally I figured the only way out of the drudgery was by going to college." With no application, no transcript, nothing but \$84 in his pocket—Rittershausen boarded a train for Cornell University, where he politely asked if he could become a student. They politely threw him out.

"Well, I was going to go home," he said. "What else could I do?" Suitcase in hand, he wandered to the colleges' entomological museum. While gazing awestruck at the specimens, he was approached by a kindly, white-haired professor who was so impressed by his story that he wrote him a conditional acceptance on the spot.

Subsequently he joined Acacia (though not quite so dramatically) and graduated in 1921. After graduating Rittershausen taught in, and eventually became principal of, Nyack High School. After retiring in 1965 he turned to beekeeping, sometimes harvesting as much as 1,300 lbs of honey in a single season.

"I did only what I was hired to do! So don't put too much stock in all the 'later.'"



Rittershausen