

# FarmHouse Fraternity at Michigan State University

## A Pictorial History

Originally developed for presentation at the  
65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, March 2001



Mark E. Havitz, MI 77

Part Six of Nine: Some Very High Water --  
From 1960 to 1969

The 1966 composite provides some evidence that the 1960s were a glory decade for MSU FarmHouse. Our numbers were as high as they had ever been. As just noted, we hosted Conclave in 1964. It was during the 1960s that the national body of FarmHouse voted to allow students not majoring in Agriculture to join the Fraternity (I believe at that same 1964 Conclave). The MSU Chapter carefully selected some good men not studying agriculture, while remaining true to its rural and Christian roots.

The men of the 1960s also embraced cultural diversity, pledging men from Africa, India, Central America, and several European countries during this time. I believe that the Chapter has lagged in this area for the past three decades. Rural and small town Michigan will likely always be our primary recruiting territory, but the best men come in a variety of shapes and colors, and sometimes even from other countries! This is one lesson that served the Chapter well in the 1960s. [Source: 1966 MSU FarmHouse composite]



The Chapter began the decade by moving into a new house at 151 Bogue Street. Once again associate member Vern Freeman provided financial and real estate advice. Even after nearly a decade of growth, the honey locust trees in the front yard were pretty small back in 1969! [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]

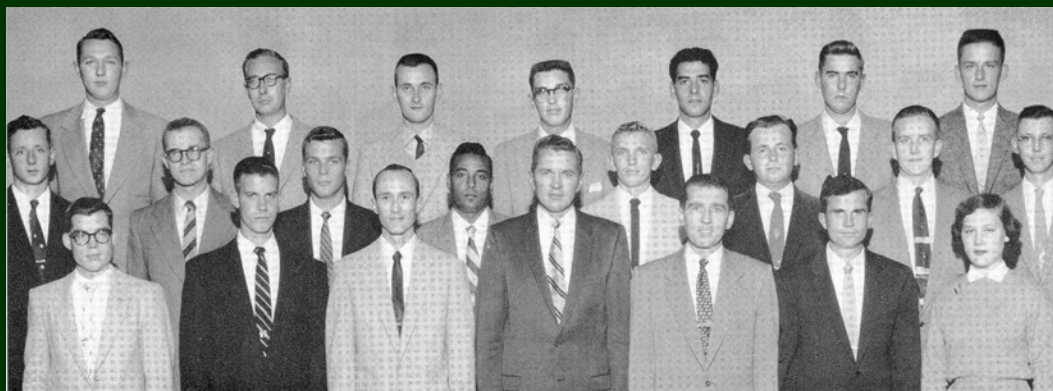


MSC FarmHouse alumnus Howie DeWolf '42 (pictured here), an architect with the Warren Homes Company, did most of the design work for the new House. [Source: 1945 *Wolverine*]

David Boyne '54 (pictured earlier) spearheaded organizational efforts among the active chapter.

Milo "Mike" Tesar, NE '38 and Russel Kleis '49 (pictured and highlighted earlier) served as each served terms as president of the Michigan FarmHouse Association during this time. Professor Tesar served many years in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences at MSU. Dr. Tesar passed away in 2002 at age 82. The remainder of this paragraph was taken from his obituary: Born in Tobias, NE in 1920, Mike was raised on a farm and educated in a one-room schoolhouse. Mike attended the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1941 with a degree in Agronomy. Mike then began graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, and was called into military service following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Mike served four years with the Army Field Artillery Division in the South Pacific earning both the Bronze and Silver Stars. An Army Major, Mike led an advance party into Hiroshima to begin the Japanese disarmament. Following World War II, Mike returned to his graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin earning a Ph.D. In 1949, Mike joined the Agronomy faculty at Michigan State University, where he remained for his entire career conducting research and teaching until his retirement in 1988. As a representative of Michigan State University and the United States government, Mike traveled extensively to underdeveloped countries for the purpose of maximizing forage crop yield, an important element in helping feed a growing world population. Mike also participated in a NATO Fellowship for agricultural research, and was a member of a forage crop expert team created as a cooperative effort in research and technology established by Presidents Nixon and Brezhnev in 1974. Mike's primary research was in forage crop physiology and management of alfalfa for which he received numerous awards as well as honorary degrees from both education and business institutions. In 1987, Mike was presented the King Charles award, an honor presented to a native Nebraskan of Czech descent who has excelled in his field of work. During his career, Mike worked closely with the University Extension Service advising farmers throughout the state of Michigan, and he developed three varieties of Webfoot Alfalfa best suited for wetter soil. In 1951, Mike was afflicted with Polio, a tremendous challenge that he faced with great determination. This determination was a trademark in every aspect of Mike's life. Mike and Marian have been blessed with a loving family of four children and eleven grandchildren. Mike set an example for his children and grandchildren by his love, loyalty, hard work, determination and service to family, church, community and his beloved Michigan State University.

And we should add, his Fraternity. As Gary Powell, '77 noted, "Dr. Tesar was a strong supporter of MSU FarmHouse through good times and bad. His support was especially appreciated by the Active members during the difficult days in the 1970s." Tesar is pictured, front row center, as advisor of the 1957 Agronomy Club. At his left is FH Associate Member Henry Foth of the crop sciences faculty. FH active Ken Garno is in the back row in the dark suit. [Source: *Lansing State Journal*, personal communication with Gary Powell, 1957 *Wolverine*]



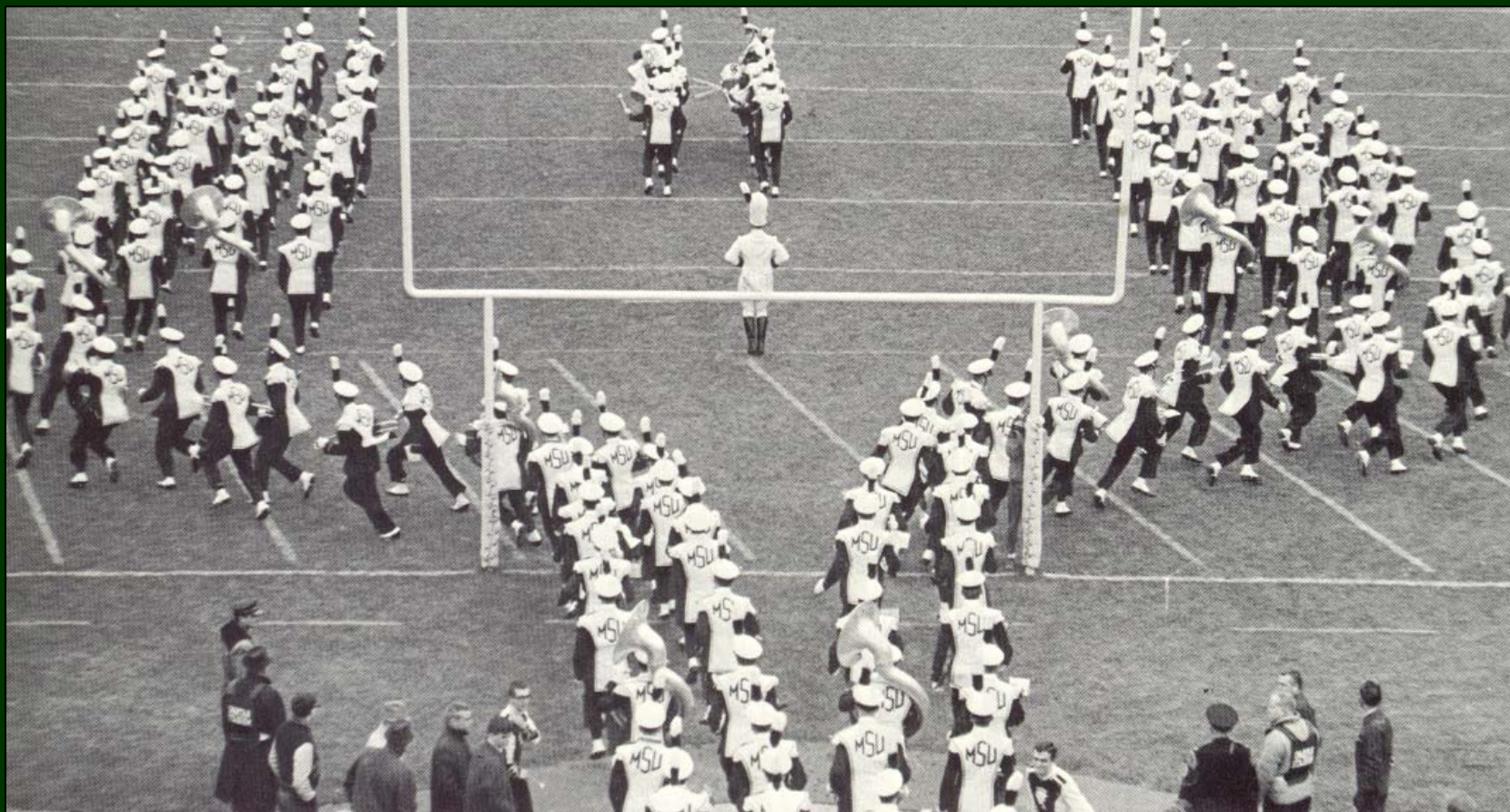
As they had been since the 1930s, high grades were the norm for FarmHouse in the 1960s. During the first 35 years of its existence, the Chapter won the all-fraternity scholarship cup approximately 75% of the time, leaving the other 30 or so fraternities on campus scrambling for second place. One year in the 1960s, the Chapter received the Summa Cum Laude award (house average 30% above the all-men's average).

FarmHouse maintained its high profile in campus leadership organizations. Chapter president Scott Cristman '66 is shown here (standing at the top of stairs, middle) serving on Senior Council in 1969. Cristman was also on the Livestock Judging team. [Photo Source: 1969 *Wolverine*; text source, IFC records]



Others, including Dick Ross '61, Jack Morse '61 and Norm Veliquette '63 were in the IFYE. Glen Newton '67 was in Green Helmet and Pi Kappa Phi. Bert Sheppard '55 was on the MSU Debate Team. Scott Cristman '66 and Bob Gregory '68 served with the IPA.

Still others, including (from left) Gene Buck '63, Terry Miller '66, Gene Fuller '66 and Greg Spetz '67 were in the Spartan Marching Band, which is shown here in 1968 executing their patented pre-game quick-step-from-the-tunnel pre-game entrance that has changed little for some four decades. John Link '66 (far right) was a trumpeter in Bob Curnow's top MSU jazz band. [Source: 1966, 1967, 1968 FarmHouse composites, 1969 *Wolverine*]



And they're off! Traditions like Lambda Chi Alpha's Jr. 500, a push cart relay around Circle Drive, were going strong in the 1960s. The face of the lead runner is obscured, but I believe that Mike McGilliard '67 is at the "wheel" or should I say "handle" or perhaps even the "rope" of the FarmHouse cart! The crowd was impressive both for its size and for its formal attire! [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]

The 1969 FarmHouse cart was powered by good old human power, unlike a Jr. 500 in the early 50s when the Fraternity took advantage of an apparent loophole in the rules. Jim Ballard '51 wrote that "I hope you have a picture of the 1952 FH pushcart for the Jr. 500 race. It was the one that Dick Anderson took to Maumee and put a motor in it. It was a slow start, but when the motor started the pushers had a hard time keeping up with it." Dick Anderson '49 recalled that "We won but were disqualified after the discovery of the motor was made by the officials. It was a great time!" Jim added that "I think there was a change in the spec's for the carts after that."

We don't have one yet, but if and when we locate a photo of the infamous cart, we'll include it in an updated history presentation! [Source: Personal communication with Jim Ballard and Dick Anderson]



In addition to its contributions to the Spartan Marching Band, the Chapter was also blessed a variety of talented musicians. For example, in partnership with the women of Zeta Tau Alpha, and the leadership of Glen Newton '67, FarmHouse won the 1968 Greek Sing. Here's a photo of Zeta sister Joyce Scofield (below) presenting a paddle to Glen and the other men at the ZTA House. The shorter guy in the white shirt behind Glen is Rex Sohn '67. Phil Downs '66 (like a true FarmHouse man, helping clean up after desert) is in the far right. The taller man in the rear in glasses is Leon DeJongh '66 and the other is Pat Ober '68. [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]



Glen and Joyce (right) posed with the victors' trophies in the FarmHouse living room. Glen's detailed version of three years of Greek Sing history follows on the next page. Now a software engineer in Minnesota, Glen's avocation is the Roseville Big Band. Visit their interesting website for more information on Glen's exploits! Text (for following page) and photo source (this page) were taken from that website: <http://www.rosevillebigband.org/>





“FarmHouse Fraternity at Michigan State University in the 1960's was not known for its social activities. It did, however, consistently top all the fraternities at scholarship and Red Cross blood drives. 1968 was the first year that the group combined with a sorority in the mixed voice division of the Greek Sing competition. The previous year, FarmHouse had placed third in a field of three for the men's voices division, singing Glen Newton's arrangements of "What Kind of Fool am I?" and "Just Once in a Lifetime". Both the first and second place fraternities had scored highly by prancing around the stage in silly costumes singing "There is Nothing Like a Dame", so it was clear that a big dose of showmanship or something would be needed if FarmHouse was to improve its standing. The solution for 1968 was to join with Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, who provided not only the upper voices but a skilled choreographer who devised simple, yet effective abstract dance steps to accompany the musical selections. The songs were "Turn, Turn, Turn" (whose choreography consisted of moving in various interlocking circles) and "Come the Day", an uplifting, yet relatively obscure song by the New Seekers, whose "Georgy Girl" had been a recent hit. Glen's six-part arrangements were based in part on this group's recordings of both songs, which were on the same album. The arrangements were fundamentally written for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, with a maximum high range of F for sopranos and tenors, a practical range for recreational singers. The other two parts appeared occasionally: a second soprano part and a tenor part that matched the first sopranos an octave lower, to accommodate those fraternity members who enjoyed singing but found harmony parts a significant challenge. The extra vocal parts, pulchritude on stage, and choreography provided by ZTA sorority sisters certainly gave FarmHouse a boost it needed. There was one other innovation: accompaniment by 6-string guitar and electric bass (played by FarmHouse fraternity brothers Phil Downs and Bill Bailey); 12-string guitar (played by Glen); and tambourine. This was both effective and controversial, since up to this point the only accompaniment for any act had been from a piano. After a flurry of consultation, the rules-interpreters for the competition concluded that while they didn't approve of it, this ensemble didn't break any of the written rules, so FarmHouse and ZTA were permitted to proceed with their plans. The competition was very close. FarmHouse and ZTA tied with another act when the points were added up, so the judges huddled and broke the tie by giving FarmHouse and ZTA one more point. The following year, FarmHouse joined forces with Gamma Phi Beta sorority for Greek Sing, but despite Glen's innovative six-part arrangements of "California Dreamin'" and "Hurry Sundown", accompanied by piano, 12-string guitar, bass, and tambourine, the group finished in the middle of the pack.”

Here are FarmHouse's bassist, Bill Bailey (left) and guitarist Phil Downs (right).  
[Photo source: 1967 FarmHouse composite]





The Bodbenders



Bill Gill '65 and Doug Spike '65 harmonizing in the backyard with an unidentified guitarist.



An outdoor meal.



There are other musical stories to tell. Here, in Jim Hunter's words, are the stories accompanying the pictures: "In 1966, we formed a FarmHouse rock band. Bill Bailey '65 (pictured earlier) played bass, John Anderson '65 (top) and I (middle) had electric guitars, and Doug Bodenbender '65 (bottom) played the drums while wearing dark glasses (even in a darkened room). We began our career with only two songs, and so we were booked to play for a Saturday night dance at the house. Brothers are forgiving, but after several hours, the sounds of "Pipeline" and "Walk, Don't Run" (the two songs from the instruction record we bought) brought requests that we go back to rehearsal and learn at least one more song. We did. Our next gig included "Louie, Louie," complete with the underground words that made it so controversial. We later worked our way up to about five or six numbers, and thought we were headed for big time. But the Beatles were formidable competition." He later added: "In one of the previous stories, I told about the Bodbenders. The name was a combination of our desire to play music so danceable that folks would have to bend their bods (bodies) to the beat. Also, having a drummer named Bodenbender made it a bit of mysterious (if not feeble) play on words. I had played an electric guitar for a couple of years, but the others learned from an instruction record we bought at Shoppers Fair in Frandor. We had three claims to fame: 1) the less we practiced, the better we sounded, 2) even though we often were not playing the same thing, we always ended together, and 3) we brought a close to the myth that all the girls fall in love with the boys in the band. Our last, and most popular (anything we did last was popular) song was "Tequila." We could play that all night (and did, on some occasions)." Finally, Jim noted that "Perhaps one of the most enjoyable memory relates to spontaneous gatherings in the side stairwell in early evenings and singing four part harmony with Doug Spike and others. It amazed me how we all seemed to know the songs and the harmony -- Doug and I have discussed it many times in the past years." [Source: Personal collection of Jim Hunter, personal correspondence with Jim Hunter]



In addition to the material on the previous page, Jim Hunter '65 has provided some wonderful slides depicting the lighter side of life in 1960s era MSU FarmHouse. He wrote: "A Sunday afternoon discussion raised the question 'what are builders of men?' So the group in the top left photo decided to go out on the front step and see if they could build something with a few FarmHouse men." They included Dave Morrow '65 (far left); Bill Bailey '65, in the white shorts and t-shirt; seated at the bottom, John Anderson '65; on John's shoulders is Tim Thar '65; at the top of the pile is Walt Willett '64, and standing at the far right, Leon DeJongh '66.

"In the fall of 1965, we entered the MSU "Ugliest Greek" contest with our first entry in this competition. After a short examination, I was selected as the ugliest active in the house, and would dress as "Cleofatra," carried on a royal lounge by six FarmHouse slaves." The top center photo was taken at the dress rehearsal in the FH living room. "We won the contest, and as a reward, were invited to parade around Spartan Stadium at a football game halftime." At top right "is a picture from the 1966 Wolverine that heralds our achievement." The caption under the yearbook photo reads "Now we know why Mark Anthony committed suicide." [Photo sources: 1966 Wolverine, personal collection of Jim Hunter. Text source: Personal communication with Jim Hunter]



Here are two more photos. They are of our FarmHouse entry in the MSU Winter Carnival snow sculpture contest. The active in the center with the orange hat is Noah Q. Speer '64, and just shown on the right is Ken Chace '66. The man in the blue shirt is unidentified. [Source: personal collection of Jim Hunter]



Mrs. Lee Clark (left) served as our Chapter's housemother from 1957 to 1972. Jim Hunter noted that "We had various names for areas in the house. I don't know if these have survived to the present, but the four-man room on the top floor, front of the house was called the F.O. (front office), and the bottom floor was the B.F.O. (bottom floor organization). Mother Clark remarked that she didn't mind the loud story telling in the F.O., but she would prefer that we spoke the punch lines to the jokes just a little louder, so she could get them." Editor's note: The B.F.O. survives to this day, but the four-man is now the Chapter's computer lounge.



The Fraternity's cook was Mrs. Delima Knox (right). More on her later! Included among Jim Hunter's collection is a slide (bottom right) which shows the "Annex" at next door 143 Bogue Street, which was owned by the MSU FarmHouse Association. Mrs. Knox and her daughter lived on the first floor of the Annex during this time. [Source: 1958 and 1969 MSU FarmHouse composites]

Jim's photo of the Annex was taken shortly after the famous "blizzard of 1967" which disrupted life in much of southern Michigan for the better part of a week. Jim wrote that the "photo gives some idea of the quantity of snow, and also shows the annex, our house next door. Our cook, Dee Knox lived down stairs, and several actives lived on the second floor. As I remember, we had one term when there was not enough room in both houses, and some actives lived in the apartments behind the house." [Source: personal communication with, and personal collection of, Jim Hunter]





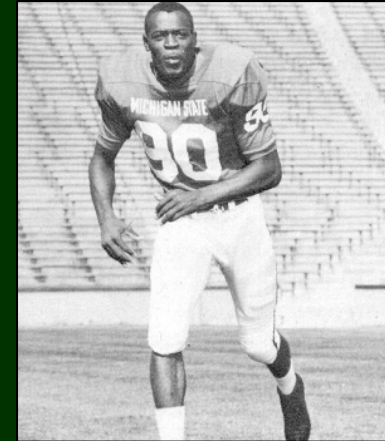
The roof on the 151 Bogue Street Chapter House does not have a steep pitch. Concerned about the potentially excessive weight on the roof, a crew of men climbed to the top once the skies had cleared and began shoveling the 30 or so inch accumulation to the ground. Part of the roof crew including Doug Spike '65, Ray Sweany '65, and Doug Lewis '67 is shown in the upper left photo. Taking note of the depth of the snow then on the ground, Jim Sillers '66 (airborne in the top middle), decided to make a solo jump and in the next photo (top right), has penetrated the snow. The pile into which he jumped was over 5' deep.

The bottom left photo is a double jump by Doug Lewis and Jim Sillers. Doug Spike jumped too quick from Jim Hunter to capture him airborne, but Jim captured his landing (bottom center), and in the bottom right photo, Doug demonstrates his true FarmHouse civic responsibility by planting a tree on the front lawn! Jim Sillers is a long-time veterinarian who has made his practice in Imlay City, MI. [Source: Personal communication with, and personal collection of, Jim Hunter]

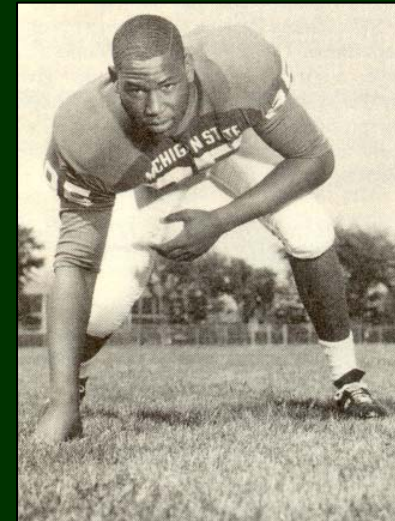




Following up on the triumphs of the 1950s, MSU enjoyed another a good sports decade, but women were still mostly on the sidelines. Cheerleading and intramural sports were their primary athletic options. [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]



For the second decade in a row, Spartan football teams rang up a 7-2-1 record versus Michigan. We also claimed part of two national championships (1965 and 1966). Linebacker George Webster (top right) was later voted the greatest Spartan gridder of the first century of MAC/MSC/MSU football. [Source: *Spartan Saga: A History of Michigan State Athletics*]

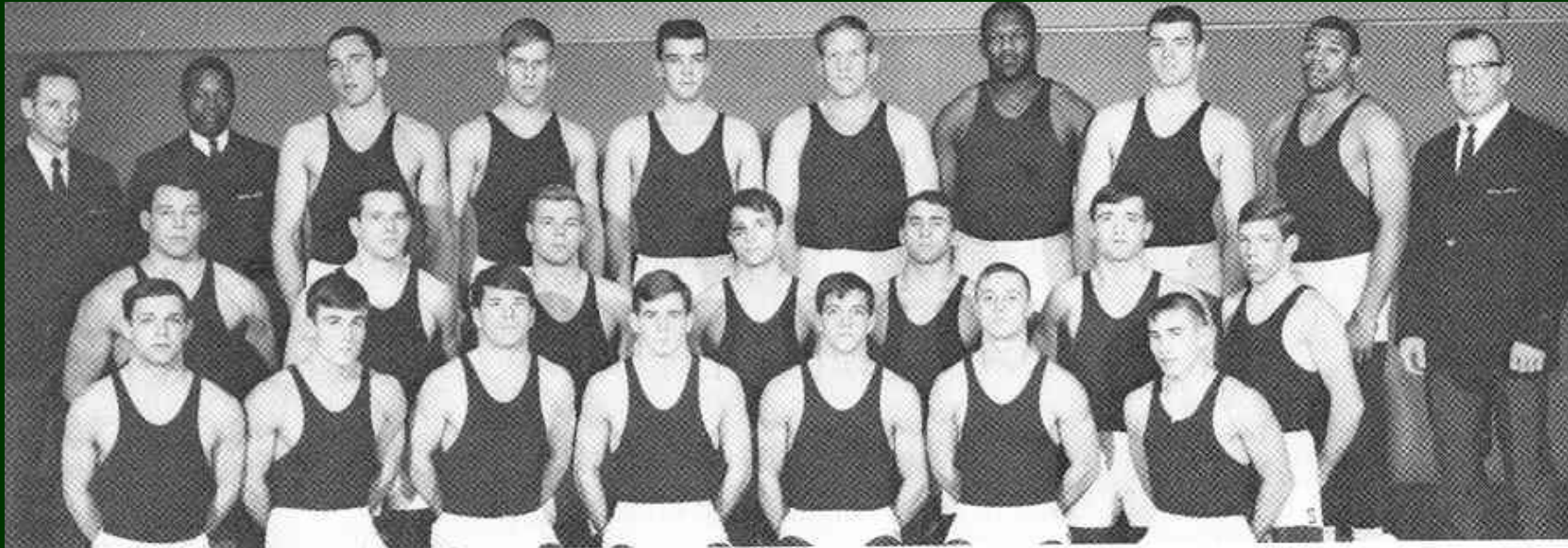


But 1966 defensive line teammate Charles “Bubba” Smith (bottom right) was more probably better known. The Spartans finished 9-0-1 including the famous 10-10 tie with Notre Dame in the “Game of the Century” and Spartans were drafted 1<sup>st</sup> (Webster), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Smith), 4<sup>th</sup> (running back Clinton Jones), and 5<sup>th</sup> (wide receiver Eugene Washington) in the first round of the 1967 NFL Draft. [Source: 2001 MSU Football Program]



Less famous than either star, at least for the time being, Norm Veliquette '63 (left) played a bit of football during his pledge term: “I ‘walked on’ for MSU Football in the fall of 1962. That probably doesn't count since after a couple of weeks I also walked off-- after meeting Gene Washington, Bubba Smith and the other guys who cut such a wide swath later in the 1960's. I give myself credit for knowing about where I'd be in the pecking order.” [Source: Personal communication with Norm Veliquette]

Two 1960s era FarmHouse men were members of the MSU Wrestling team, both members of prominent FarmHouse families. Alec McPherson '65 was a walk-on. Mike McGilliard '67 (second row, far right) wrestled for MSU for four years at 115 pounds. Both were on the team when MSU won the Big Ten and NCAA championships in 1967, though Alec is not in the team picture. Mike was also on the dairy cattle judging team and the dairy products judging team. Mike's brother Kip '69 stated, "If I remember correctly, the dairy products judging team won a national championship as well, but you need to check all of my facts." No one has told me otherwise to this point! [Photo sources: *Spartan Saga*, 1969 FarmHouse composite, Kip McGilliard personal collection]



Mike has served on the Dairy Science faculty at Virginia Tech for a number of years. Kip earned a Ph.D. in Pharmacology worked and lived in Oregon and (currently) in Illinois. Kip served as president of the Chapter in 1973. Their father Lon OK '39, who passed away in June 2002, was a prominent member of MSU's Animal Science faculty. Alec McPherson is Plant Manager with Allied Signal Corporation in St. Joseph, Michigan. More on Alec's family later.



K. McGilliard



L. McGilliard



A. McPherson

Baseball teams of the late 1960s featured another future Hall of Famer, Steve Garvey (second row, third from left), who plied his trade with the Dodgers and Padres. For the record, Garvey was not a member of FarmHouse. [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]



Bob Bond '60 was a member of the MSU Cross Country team early in the decade. A longtime staff member with MSU's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Bond is now owner of Universal Map. [Source: 1962 *FarmHouse* composite; personal contact with Lauren Hager; personal contact with Gary Powell]







The building boom continued in earnest during the 1960s. Second Wells dorm was razed to make room for a new library. [Source: MSU Website]

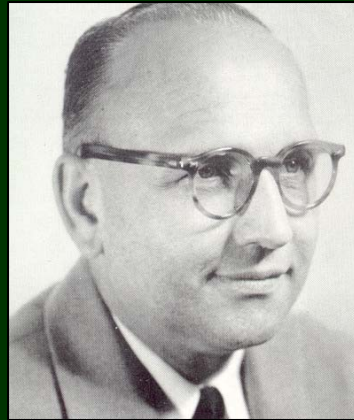
South campus took shape in a frenzy of construction. The new Natural Resources Building housed four departments dear to many FarmHouse men including Forestry, Park and Recreation Resources, Resource Development, and Fisheries and Wildlife. [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]



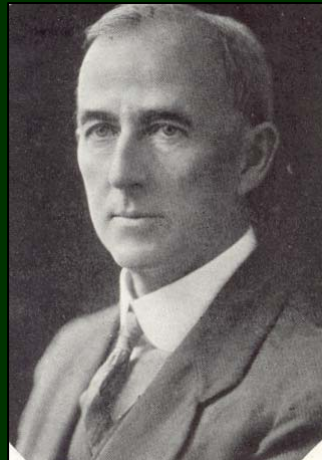
East campus was created during this decade. The built campus now stretched from the Brody Complex on the west, well past Shaw Hall, all the way to Hagadorn Street upon which the tall towers of Hubbard Hall fronted. Without moving an inch, the FarmHouse chapter house at 151 Bogue Street was suddenly closer to the center of campus than it was to the east end! [Source: 1978 *Red Cedar Log*]



The new education building honored former dean C. E. Erickson. MSU's College of Education has, for years, consistently been recognized as one of the top, if not the top, program in the nation. [Source: 1952 *Wolverine*, MSU Website]



Just across the river, the band shell was razed in 1960 and a large classroom building honoring former botany professor and dean Earnst Bessey took its place. [Source: 1929 *Wolverine*, MSU Website]



New dorms honored former dean Sarah VanHousen Jones. [Source: 1949 *Wolverine*, MSU Website]



And former MSU secretary Karl McDonel [Source: 1942 *Wolverine*, MSU Website]

A big east campus lecture hall honored former dean of women Elizabeth Conrad. [Source: 1929 *Wolverine*, MSU Website]



The following pages summarize career accomplishments to date from some representative men from the 1960s. Interspersed are recollections of campus and FarmHouse life during that time.



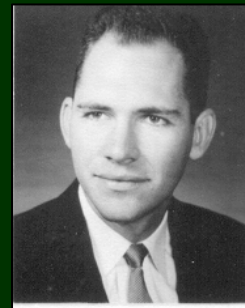
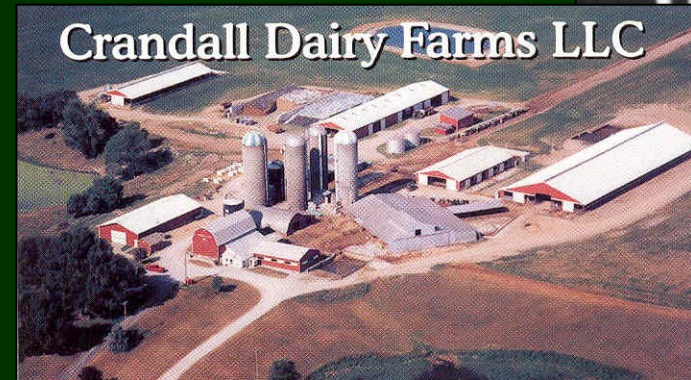
Pete Spike '60 (top left of first group), professor of Animal Sciences at Ohio State, has appointments in Extension and teaching. He also coaches the OSU and 4-H dairy cattle judging teams and is advisor for the Buckeye Dairy Club. Doug Spike '65 (middle left) developed the Bloomfield Hills (MI) school district's farm and garden center. Each grade has a different curriculum in this K-12 program. Third graders plant seeds, tend garden, and have a harvest festival. Sixth graders examine "Food for America" and study the diversity of agriculture. Seventh graders participate in a land conservation program. High school students study biology, physiology, anatomy, and ecology. Doug is also the high school's FFA advisor. He has served on the Board of Directors for the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. His work is especially important in our urbanized country where many people don't realize that pickles come from cucumbers and that convenient, individually packaged food items come with economic and environmental prices. Phil Spike '67 (bottom left) completed his PhD in animal breeding and genetics at Iowa State University. He was hired onto the faculty at Iowa State in 1975 and is Professor of Animal Science. He is heavily involved in the undergraduate teaching program at ISU and served as Interim Director of the Computation Center at ISU for one year. He has served one term each on the FH Alumni Board and as FH faculty advisor for the Iowa State chapter of FarmHouse." [Source: 1963, 1966 and 1968 MSU FarmHouse composites, personal communication with Doug and Phil Spike, OSU Animal Sciences website]

Jim Gibson '62 (top left of second group) serves as the Education Consultant for Agricultural and Environmental Technologies for the Wisconsin Technical College System Board in Madison. He works with faculty in each of the sixteen technical college districts. Jim reported that "Of the more than 450,000 who formally enrol in one or more classes each year, we have about 3,800 persons enrolled in full and part time studies in agriculture, including those involved in production agriculture, agribusiness, ag mechanics, horticulture, natural resources and the like. [They are] the same kinds of programs and occupations that I worked with while on the staff in the Institute of Agricultural Technology at MSU and University of Minnesota-Waseca. My wife, Kenna, and I live in Verona, a small town just outside of Madison. Two of my brothers were also active members of FarmHouse at MSU. Carl '65 (middle left) is still in the Lansing area and working for a firm headquartered in Okemos dealing with nursing home management and operations. Fred '70 (bottom left) and his family live in Sterling Heights. He is an attorney and is hoping to survive an upcoming spring primary election in a bid to get on the fall election ballot to become a circuit court judge in Macomb County." [Source: Spring 2002 Spartan Scribe, 1963, 1966 and 1971 MSU FarmHouse composites]

Like dozens of FarmHouse men, Larry Crandall '64 (right) has made a solid career in production agriculture. He is owner/operator of Crandall Dairy Farms near Battle Creek (200 cows, 1000 acres of crops) pictured below right. Larry has been active in Farm Bureau, MMPA, DHIA, the township planning commission, and the county soils conservation board. [Source: 1965 MSU FarmHouse composite]

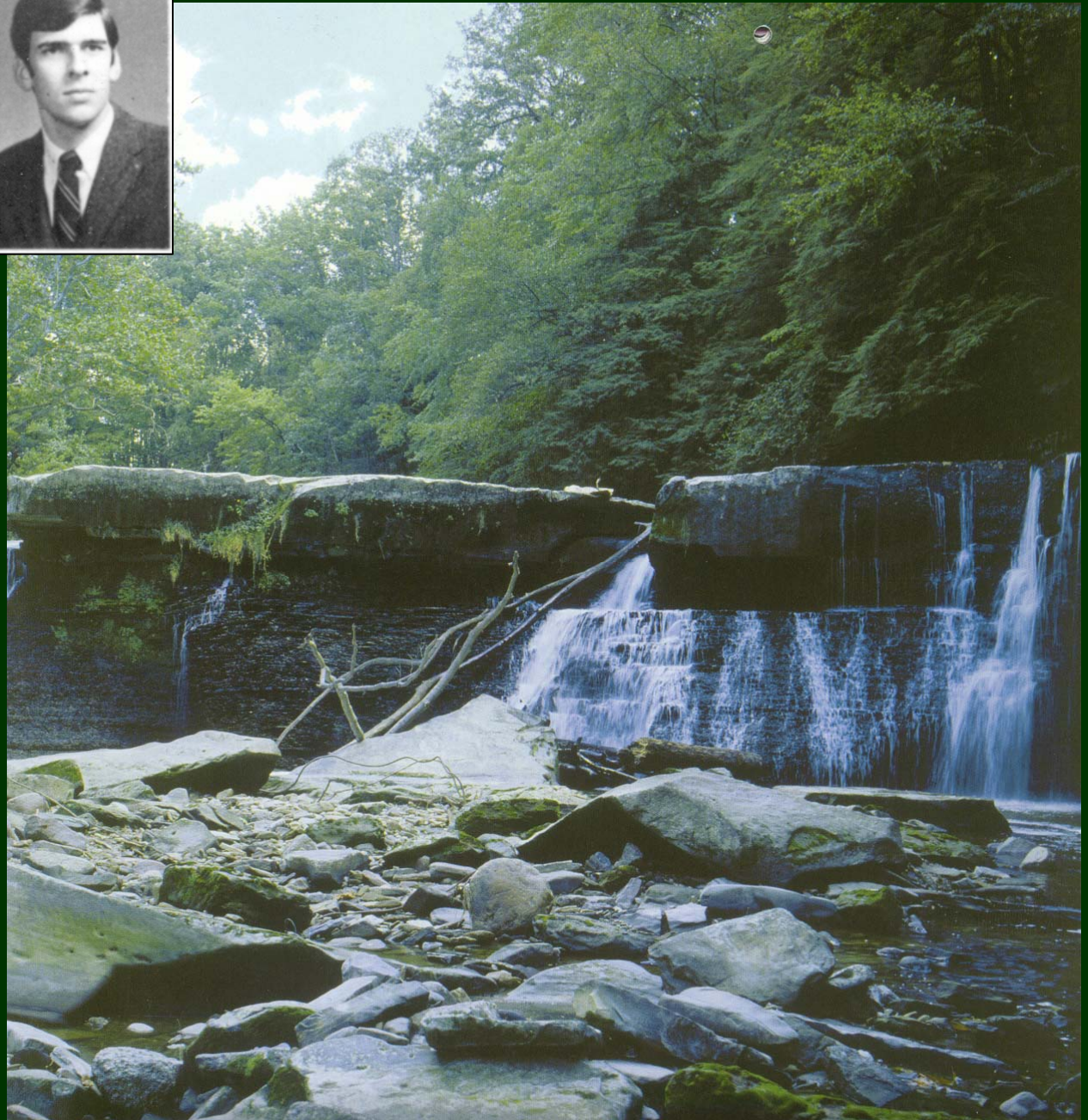
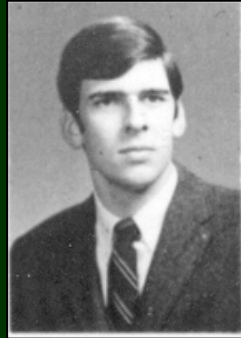


The four Thar brothers had a tremendous impact on the House. Most were actives in the 1960s. Jim '56 (below left) is a retired Colonel and Test Pilot with the US Air Force. Jim noted that “After Test Pilot School, I was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Test Squadron at Clark Air Base in the Philippines where we fired sidewinder and sparrow missiles at drone aircraft to test their accuracy and reliability.” He is currently Dean of Students at the Arizona College of the Bible. Ferdinand (Bud) '59 (below center) is a Battle Creek area businessman specializing in international trade and development. Bill '62 (below right) is an MD and serves as Vice President of Clinical Research for PersonalPath System, Inc. in New Jersey. Tim '65 (not pictured here, though we have an action shot of him “building men” earlier in this presentation) is an MD practising Radiation Oncology in Boca Raton, Florida. [Source: 1957, 1963, 1964 MSU FarmHouse composites; personal communication with Bill and Jim Thar]



Norm Brown '67 (not pictured) has enjoyed a diverse career. He worked with the Peace Corps in Philippines, agricultural education in Algeria, and consulted in Latin America and the Caribbean. He was president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation from 1986 to 1994. The Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930. By 1990 it had distributed over \$1 Billion in grants to support agriculture, education and health. Dr. Brown was also appointed during the 1980s by President George H. Bush to the Advisory Committee on the Points of Light Initiative Foundation. [Source: *Pearls and Rubies*]

Vern Hartenburg '67 is currently Executive Director of the Cleveland Metroparks system. "The Emerald Necklace" as it is known, encompasses 20,000 acres, 14 major parks and 100 miles of connecting parkways. It boasts a zoo, six golf courses, opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, birding, skiing, etc. Cleveland Metroparks has an annual budget of \$58.2 million. 500 full-time employees, 100 part-time, 700 volunteers. Prior to moving to Ohio, Vern served as executive director of parks and recreation in Wilmington, DE; Evansville, IN; Ann Arbor, MI; and Hennipin County (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN). [Source: 1969 MSU FarmHouse composite]

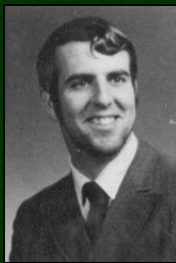


This photo captures a scene from one of Vern's parks. It's hard to believe the photo was taken in the middle of a city as large as Cleveland, OH! [Source: 2001 Cleveland Metroparks Calendar]



Cherry Ke, Inc. of Kewadin and Suttons Bay was founded by the three Veliquette brothers (Norm '63 (upper left), Dean '66 (upper right), and Gene '66 (lower right) and Bob Gregory '68 (lower left) in the early 1970s. Bob's brother Don, a CMU grad, was added to the fold soon after. Over the ensuing three decades they built the company into the world's largest producer of tart cherries. [Source: 1964, 1967 and 1971 MSU FarmHouse composites]

Now diversified into a variety of fruit growing and processing operations along Michigan's west coast, the companies continue to thrive under the names Cherry Ke and Cherry Bay. Cherry Bay's beautiful "Wylers" orchard (top left) overlooks both Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau. That's my dog Charlie in the foreground. [Source: Mark Havitz personal collection]



Bob Gregory (right with the lunch pail) posed in July 2001 at the Cherry Bay cooling pad near Suttons Bay with (from left) Mark Havitz, Don Gregory and Ann Gregory. [Source: Mark Havitz personal collection]





Some comments from Norm Veliquette: "You mentioned some examples where there had been several FarmHouse brothers from the same family. Mine was one of them. There are related parallels (pun intended) that could go unnoticed, relatives marrying their brother's sisters. Such was my case in that my wife Marjory is a sister to brothers Peter McPherson and Alec McPherson. Another of the McPherson sisters, Jenett, married brother Duane Patrick of Saranac. Thus, four children of Donald and Ellura McPherson became part of the FarmHouse "brotherhood." Donald McPherson was a contemporary of the Michigan FarmHouse chapter founders Orion Ulrey, K. T. Wright, Herb Berg and others whom he frequently reminisced with me about when I visited his home courting Marjory. Her support of my life's work and avocations has been huge." The photo below, which includes many members of this "FarmHouse Family" was taken at Vergennes United Methodist church near Lowell, MI.



Front row: third from left, Karen McPherson, wife of D. Alec McPherson. Second row: at left, D. Alec McPherson '65; second from left, Jenett McPherson Patrick; fourth from left, Susan McPherson Smith. Third row: at left, William G. "Mac" McPherson; next, Duane Patrick '56. Fourth row: center, Betsy McPherson Knox. Top row: Third from left, Norman Veliquette '63; next two women, twins Marjory McPherson Veliquette and Mary McPherson Gaffield. Inset photo: M. Peter McPherson '60 with son and family. [Source: Personal collection of Norm Veliquette]

More from Norm Veliquette: "My twin brothers Gene and Dean with Bob Gregory and I have been blessed with some measure of success and recognition. In this context, we could not let the name Walter Kirkpatrick pass. He is living this winter in Harlingen, TX. I think he was a member of Michigan FarmHouse before the Charter was received. He was significant in the lives of the Veliquettes as the Antrim County extension agent during our boyhood. His initiative brought our parents into the fold of 4-H leaders, and to us children the cornucopia of opportunities afforded to 4-H members in those days. His affiliation with FarmHouse was a factor in our predisposition to join." [Source: Personal communication with Norm Veliquette]



MSC FarmHouse Charter member Walter '36 and Alice Kirkpatrick (left) were in East Lansing in 2002 for an MSU reunion where Walter received the "Kedzie Cane" emblematic of the oldest living alumnus in attendance. Past MSC President Frank Stewart Kedzie, in 1929, initiated the Kedzie Cane tradition. The cane was originally owned by his father, chemistry professor Robert Clark Kedzie. Another interesting family connection is that FH President John Koepele '56 (insert) is Walt Kirkpatrick's nephew. [Photo source: 1957 Composite, *MSU Alumni Magazine*]





Finally, Norm provided some recollections about living in FarmHouse during the 1960s. "I don't know if it's still around, but there used to be a back-lighted FH Shield made of plywood and painted gold. When I pledged in 1963 it was nothing more than a cut-out front. One of our pledge projects was the restoration and reconstruction of that piece. I'd be impressed if it held up for this long." [Editor's note: Yes Norm, that Shield, left, still hangs in the living room at 151 Bogue Street.]

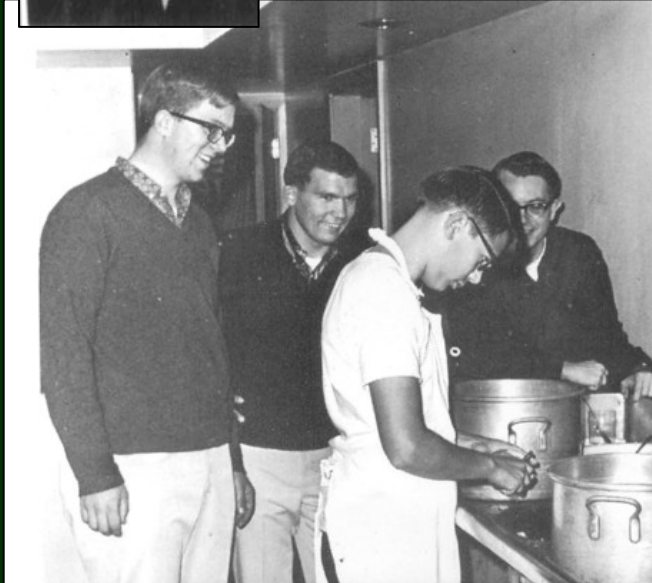
"Another one of our pledge projects (pranks) was to jack up and block up the drive axles of the cars belonging to the actives during one of their parties. When they came out to take their dates home to the dorms, their cars started nicely and the wheels turned, but wouldn't go anywhere. In those days, coeds would get "late minutes" if not in by the curfew. No one ever allowed extra time to take dates home. So there was great consternation about the situation and there was a lot of behind-the-hand snickering among the pledges (and actives) at the expense of the victims. Wish I could remember who they were. Possibly [from left to right, below] John Dorman, Terry Edington, Les Severance and Stan Hatter? Had some great softball teams in some of those years. Went to the All-University finals in the intramural tournament at least once.



Jim Hunter '65 recalled "the night we moved all of Jim Sillers' belongings into the living room. Jim worked across the street at one of the dorms (Snyder, I think) and when he came back to the house, his entire room had been recreated in the living room. He did not notice when he came in the front door, but after coming back down after discovering his empty room, he casually walked into the living room, proceeded to undress, and went to bed. It seemed like a lot more work to haul everything back up there. And then there was the time we moved all of Lane Ely's room contents into his '57 Ford, named Ol' Red. That was a real piece of engineering . . . and we still were able to win top academic frat house for three consecutive terms that year. Go figure!"



In 2001, we started a new feature in the *Spartan Scribe*, titled "FarmHouse Memories." Gene Buck 'MI 63 (insert left), now a senior policy analyst with the Congressional Research Service, was the first alumnus to reply. Gene provided a sense of the flavor of FarmHouse in the mid-1960s in his response to the following questions:

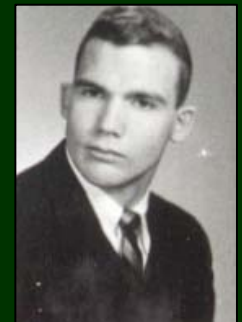


Helping out cook Dee Knox by performing kitchen duty are Jim Hunter '65, Walt Turner '64, Jerry Johnson '64 and Dave Dean '65.

What is your best memory of FarmHouse and/or MSU? "Some of my best memories are of sitting around in the upstairs living room before dinner, playing euchre or bridge, enjoying the odors seeping up from Dee Knox's cooking. Why? The immense sense of companionship and "family" at FarmHouse was an important step in my life after leaving home to attend college and start my own life."

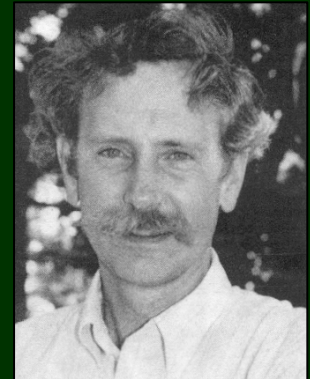
What was the funniest thing that happened during your FarmHouse days? "I was pledge trainer in the mid-1960s when the pledge class decided, for their pledge raid, to try to 'capture and hold' all the bathrooms in the Chapter House on Bogue Street. All went fine in the middle of the night, and the bathrooms were secured and barricaded from the Actives. However, problems arose when one factor was overlooked: Some of the Actives were vet med students with syringes that were used to squirt ammonia through the cracks in the bathroom doors, eventually forcing the pledges to surrender and give up." [Photo sources: 1965 MSU FarmHouse composite, 1966 *Wolverine*. Text source: Spring 2001 *Spartan Scribe*]

Who among your peers best represented FarmHouse ideals? "I remember Walt Turner, especially. Walt was always up-beat, positive, supportive, and encouraging, no matter what crisis was on the horizon, what demands faced the Active chapter. He was always there to help out with the hard work, and a good friend to pledge and active alike. He was a hard working student and devoted to family and friends." Here's Walt Turner '64 (right), a long-time dairy farmer in Pennsylvania. [Source: 1965 MSU FarmHouse composite].



Who has most distinguished themselves since graduation? "I've been impressed with Walt Willett's career in medicine and have followed his achievements through the years. Walt was another of the pledges I had the pleasure of working with as pledge trainer. Walt was a wonderful friend and asset to FarmHouse in every way." Who do you miss most? Working behind a desk in Washington, DC now, I miss the sincerity of companionship and friendship of all my friends who came from a similar rural background. Nothing could beat the fellowship among Actives and pledges during the early 1960s at 151 Bogue Street." [Text source: Spring 2001 *Spartan Scribe*]

Walter Willett '64, mentioned in Gene Buck's recollections (pictured at right in both the 1960s and 1990s), is professor and chair of the Department of Nutrition at Harvard University. "By consensus the world's foremost expert" in the area of nutritional epidemiology, he and his colleagues had, as of 1993, studied the impact of diet on health on over 300,000 people. Dr. Willett speaks his mind and isn't afraid to be unpopular. Excerpts from a feature in *Pearls & Rubies* reveal some of his views: Caffeine does not hurt the heart, but decaf might. Moderate alcohol consumption lowers risk of heart attack, but among women raises risk of breast cancer. Give up red meat. Margarine is associated with increased risk of heart disease. Quoting Dr. Willett: "A lot of what we hear is not based on science but on speculation. For example, the American Heart Association's recommendation that no more than 30% of calories come from fat is not based on any evidence. Eat fewer eggs? You would think there would be a handful of studies showing that people who eat more eggs have more heart attacks, but there aren't any." [Source: 1966 MSU FarmHouse composite, Summer 1993 *Pearls & Rubies*]



Walter Willett



Dr. Willet is not the only MSU FH man to distinguish himself in this arena. Maurice Bennink '65 (left) is professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Michigan State, Dr. Bennink is an internationally recognized cancer researcher. A recent nationally acclaimed study from Dr. Bennink's labs found that not-from-concentrate orange juice reduced colon cancer incidence in animals by 22%. [Source: 1966 MSU FarmHouse composite]

Phil Spike '67 recalled still another FarmHouse pledge raid: "I am the youngest of the Spike brothers. Peter had left MSU when I became an active but Doug was still in the house. Pledges were encouraged to plan a pledge raid during the term they were pledging. The "rules" we were given for the pledge raid were that: 1) All pledges had to participate. 2) If one pledge was captured within 24 hours, all pledges had to return in humility. 3) We must call the housemother to report our hideout in case of emergency. Doug and I had planned to return to our parent's home one weekend. The pledges planned the raid for that weekend. I talked to my parents and they agreed to help me out by taking Doug back to MSU on Sunday after I returned in the middle of Saturday night for the pledge raid. Everything for the raid worked like clock work. After the raid, we headed off north to take some pledge brother's to see the Mackinaw Bridge. Snow made driving dangerous so we stopped at a motel and rented 2 rooms to share among our ~20 pledge brothers. In the early morning the actives called Doug to have him catch me. They asked him if I was there. He said 'sure.' My parent's laughed and said that he had better go up to my room and check. That was probably the best joke that I was ever to play on Doug. Late the next morning, we called the house mother to report our location and phone number. A couple of hours later several cars of actives arrived to catch us. They had a coed pretend to be the house mother and used the information to catch us. Even though we were caught, it was a great FH experience." [Source: Personal communication with Phil Spike]



Water Carnival still thrived in the 1960s. "I do have a couple of shots of our float for spring 66. The close-up shot is of Dave Morrow '65 on the left, and I am not sure who the other guy is, but it seems he stayed in the house for a term or two, and may have been from a Scandinavian country." The house did even better at the 1967 Water Carnival, winning first prize. Unfortunately, we have yet to locate a photo of that float. [Source personal communication with Jim Hunter, personal collection of Jim Hunter]

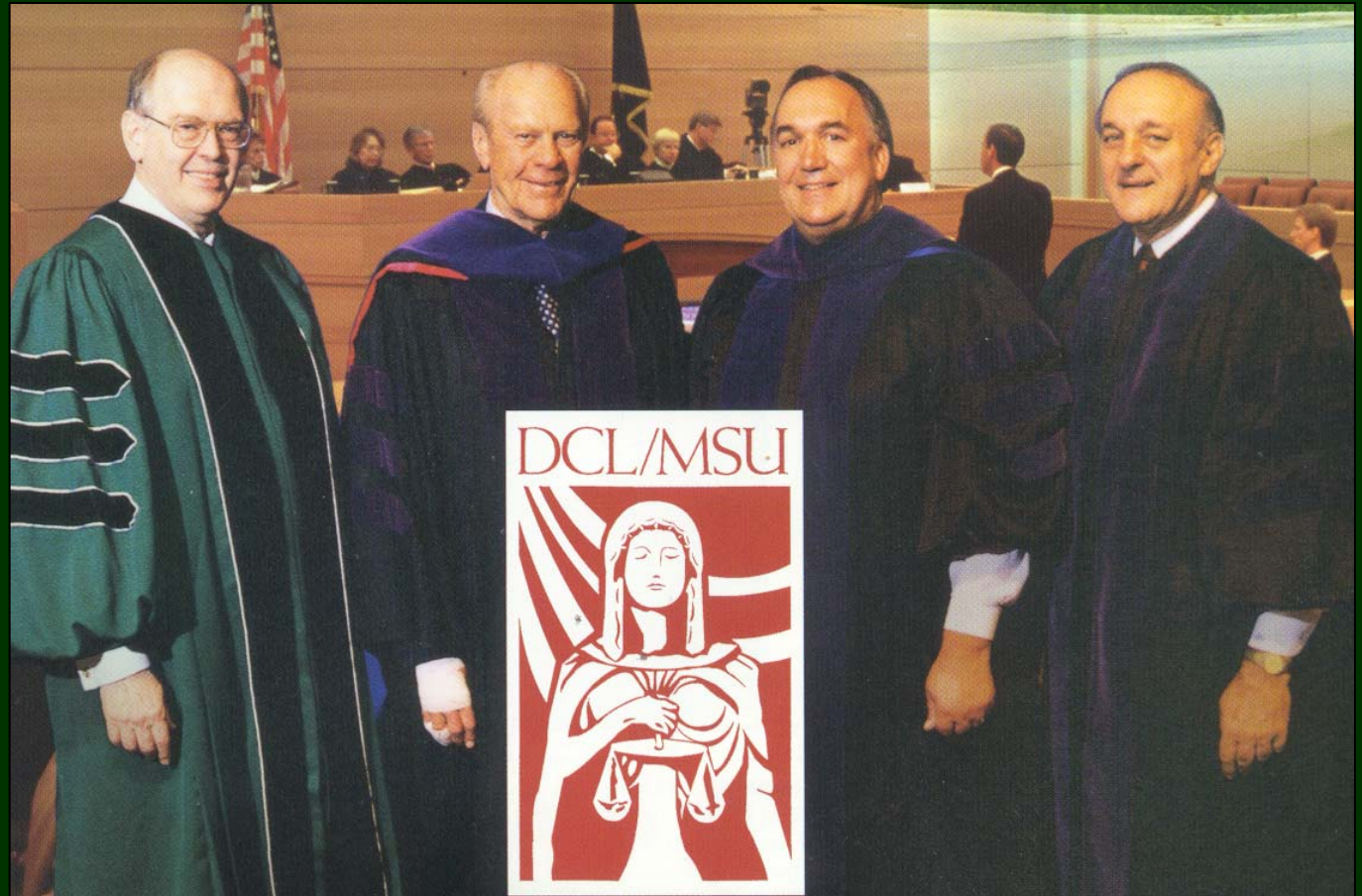
Several FarmHouse men have entered politics. Among the most notable are Dale Sheltroun '61 (left) and Lauren Hager '60 (right) who currently serve as State Legislators in the Michigan House of Representatives. Dale (D) is from Gladwin and represents the 103rd District. Lauren (R) represents the 81st District which includes Port Huron, Marysville, St. Clair and eight surrounding townships and is in his second term. Lauren retired from the Port Huron Area School District after a 35 year teaching career. [Text source: Personal communication with Lauren Hager. Photo sources: 1962 MSU FarmHouse Composite, City of Lansing website]





Pictured at left about the time Peter McPherson '60 was junior class president at MSU, and president of the MSU and State of Michigan College Young Republicans, this farm boy from Lowell left MSU with a political science degree to serve in the Peace Corps in Peru. His career progressed and some years later Dr. McPherson was named by President Reagan to head the US Agency for International Development. He won a UNICEF award for "Outstanding Contribution to Child Survival" and served as acting U. S. Treasury Secretary (1988) following James Baker's resignation to head George H. Bush's election campaign. While serving in this capacity, Dr. McPherson lead the Bank of America's efforts to re-schedule Third World debt. [Source: 1961 MSU FarmHouse composite]

On October 1, 1993 he was named President of Michigan State University. He's pictured (far left) with former U. S. President Gerald Ford, Michigan Governor John Engler, and Law School Dean Bashara at the dedication of MSU's new law school. [Source *MSU Alumni Magazine*]





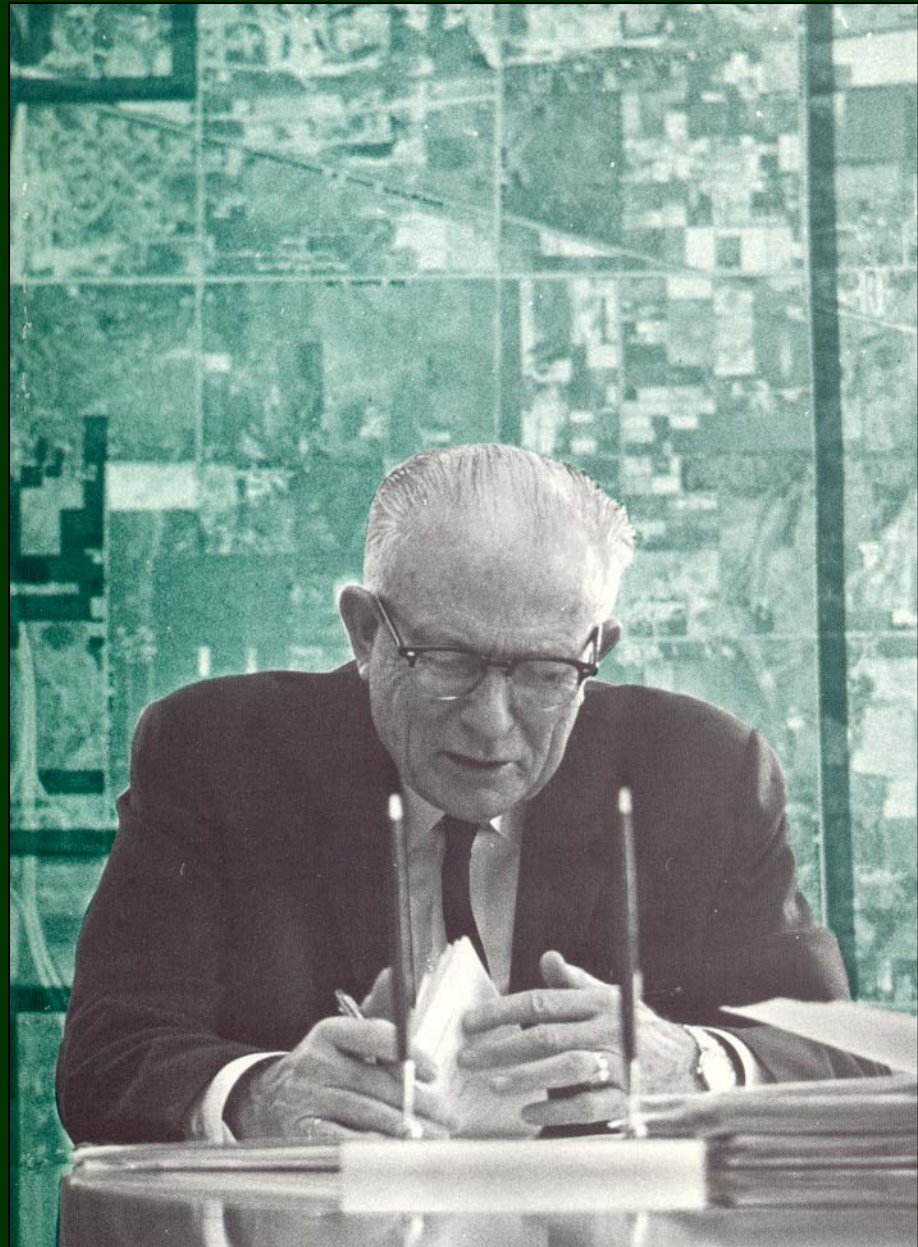
Dr. McPherson welcomed U. S. President Bill Clinton to campus several times. Although numerous future and former Presidents have paid visits to campus over the years, Clinton was the first “standing” President to visit campus since Theodore Roosevelt spoke at MAC in 1907. [Source *MSU Alumni Magazine*]



Pete McPherson has worked diligently on current issues and tackled tough problems facing the large and dynamic university in an era of relative fiscal restraint. Among his notable achievements was MSU’s well-publicized “tuition guarantee” which allows incoming Freshmen the luxury of better financial planning based on a clear knowledge of anticipated fee payments. As the 20<sup>th</sup> Century came to a close, many already regarded Dr. McPherson as among MSU’s top Presidents. [Source: Winter 1999 *MSU Alumni Magazine*]

Based on the accomplishments of the Fraternity and the still ongoing careers of various brothers including hundreds not documented here, there can be little doubt that the 1960s were, all in all, a great decade for MSU FarmHouse.

But change was in the air. John Hannah, the man many Spartans still revere as “MSU’s greatest president” retired in 1969 after an incredible career. [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]





Dr. Hannah retired just weeks after the Administration building bearing his name was completed. As President Emeritus, he maintained an office there for over 20 years, however. This is a view of the main entrance. [Source: MSU Website]

The front facade is impressive, but sun bathers and the Red Cedar ducks have found building's "back door" to be even more compelling, especially on a warm spring day! [Source: MSU Website]





About this time, a large mainframe computer was installed on campus and primitive remote computer terminals such as that pictured at left began appearing. PCs were, for most of us, beyond our range of comprehension or still far on the planning horizon [Source: 1969 *Wolverine*]. Protesters also began appearing, such as at this 1969 rally, against the war in Viet Nam which few people fully understood. The issues did not seem as clear cut as in past conflicts. The Viet Nam War proved divisive to FarmHouse, but until recently I thought that the only direct havoc wrought on FarmHouse during the Viet Nam era occurred in the early 1970s when our numbers plummeted due to the relatively hostile environment for fraternities.



Bill Newcomer '70 recently noted "Regarding the Vietnam War, it was indeed a divisive issue in the house. I was in the house when the Kent State shootings happened and the campus erupted in protest. For the most part we were able to let each brother have room for their own conscience, though there were more than a few heated discussions at times. However, an example of the level of emotions involved was best illustrated when one of the brothers, (who I will leave unnamed), announced his deactivation and resigned from FH, due as he stated to the 'persecution' he was getting for his views on the war." [Personal communication with Bill Newcomer, July 30, 2005]

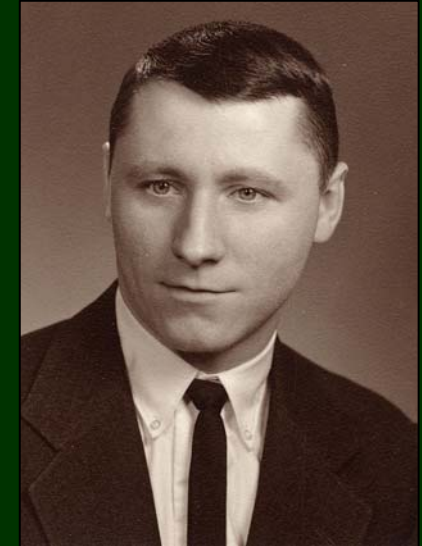
Newcomer's corroborating comments notwithstanding, I was wrong. Norm Veliquette '63 wrote me in early 2001 to pledge money for the WWII FarmHouse Gold Star restoration project and informed me that an MSU FarmHouse man, Cordell Ponak, had died fighting in Viet Nam. [Photo source: 1969 *Wolverine*]

To that point, I'd never heard of Cordell Ponak '65, but I did some checking, and there he was: on our composites from 1967 and 1968. [Source:1968 MSU FarmHouse composite] Then I confirmed Norm's recollection by visiting the Viet Nam Wall website. Ponak had indeed fought and died in Viet Nam and, some individual brothers excepted, his fraternity had literally forgotten about him. Shame on us. [Source: Vietnam Wall website]

## **CORDELL JOSEPH PONAK**

**1LT - O2 - Army - Reserve  
MACV Advisors  
23 year old Married, Caucasian, Male  
Born on Oct 06, 1946  
From PRESCOTT, MICHIGAN  
Length of service 1 year.  
His tour of duty began on Sep 04, 1969  
Casualty was on Nov 15, 1969  
in QUANG DUC, SOUTH VIETNAM  
Hostile, died of wounds  
GROUND CASUALTY  
MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS  
Body was recovered**

**Panel 16W - - Line 81**



If you ever travel to Washington D.C. and have occasion to visit The Wall, please stop and visit your brother. His name is inscribed on Panel 16W, Line 81. Let's do what we can to honor his memory for future FarmHouse men. I am hopeful that an outgrowth of this history project will be an effort to raise money for a plaque in his honor in our Chapter room. [Source: Mark Havitz, personal photo collection]



Postscript to the previous page: Here are some scenes from the Cordell Ponak memorial plaque dedication, 25 April, 2004.



Above, from left, some of Cordell Ponak's contemporaries unveil the memorial plaque: Ken Chace '66 (in dark suit with back to camera); Larry Crandall '64 (pointing to plaque); Norm Veliquette '63, Terry Harris '64; Alec McPherson '65; Jim Sillers '66 [Source: MSU FarmHouse website (accessed 6 July 2005)]



Right: Brandon Fritz '02 displays the Ponak memorial plaque at the Chapter House.



Left: Larry Crandall '64 (left) with the principal speakers at the dedication ceremony; Lane Ely '64, Norm Veliquette '63 and Mark Havitz '77.

Postscript continued: More scenes from the Cordell Ponak memorial plaque dedication, 25 April, 2004.



Top photo, alumni at Founders' Day 2004: Standing (l to r): Phil Downs '66, Gerry Kuhl '65, Ken Chace '66, Bill Bailey '65, Jim Hunter '65, Don Hannigan '62, Jerry Hull '51, Don Bush '68. Seated (l to r): Mark Havitz '77, Doug Bodenbender '65, Larry Crandall '64, Lane Ely '64, Norm Veliquette '63, Lowell Allen '48, Bill Wilson '56.



In attendance but not pictured: Bob Braden '42, Dave Durkee '74, Brandon Fritz '02, Carl Gibson '65, George Greenleaf '46, Don Hillman '51, Terry Harris '64, Alec McPherson '65, Jack Morse '61, Dan Schulz '91, Jeff Schulz, and Jim Sillers '66.



Bottom photo: Alumni joined by members of the Active Chapter.

[Photo source: Mark Havitz, personal photo collection]

Numerous other FarmHouse men served in Viet Nam. For example, the four “flying Fox” brothers, all initiated in the 1950s and pictured left to right, served with distinction in the U.S. Air Force during this era. Jim Fox '52 (left) spent twenty years in the USAF including a tour in Viet Nam. C. Edward Fox '56 (second from left) spent thirty years in the USAF with a 100 mission in F105 in Thailand and Viet Nam. Ray Fox '59 (second from right) spent twenty years in the USAF with almost two years in Viet Nam. Bob Fox '54 (right) spent five years in the USAF but did not serve in Viet Nam. They have since occupied diverse careers ranging from computer science (Ray), golf course management (Jim), agricultural engineer (Bob). Ed rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. [Source: Personal correspondence with Ray Fox; 1955 and 1959 FarmHouse composites]



Lane Ely '64, served in US Army from 1968 to 1970 and in Viet Nam from 1969 to 1970. He has served for some time with the Animal & Dairy Science Department at the University of Georgia. [Source: 1967 FarmHouse composite]



Chuck Liddle '56 served with the 175th Veterinary detachment in Danang and did rabies diagnosis for the northern part of Viet Nam. [Source: 1957 FarmHouse composite]



Larry Blosser '65 served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta in the summer of 1969. More recently, he has worked as an attorney with MCI Communications in Washington, DC. [Source: 1966 FarmHouse composite]



I will update this service record as more information is provided.



Carlos Santos '67 was one of several international students who joined FarmHouse during the 1960s. He recently wrote: "I spent a marvelous time at the House and lived almost 2 years at the Annex in the late 60s. Those were beautiful experiences for a citizen of the third world, seeing first-hand how your country grappled with Vietnam, race relations and Richard Nixon. Needless to say, the experiences were not always pleasant, but they were always interesting and educational.

On balance, I look back with fond memories and gratitude to the countless friends I made, the education I acquired (both formal and informal), the opportunity to mingle with and understand a different culture (or different cultures). I wish to say, however belatedly,

THANKS to all of you for the opportunities and the memories. Belize beckons you. We proudly proclaim that we are one of the most sought after and pristine eco-tourism and adventure destinations in the world. Our beaches, snorkeling and diving sites are second to none. I invite you to visit the Belize website and our shores soon. I will be happy to be of assistance. What about a FH meeting in Belize? Best wishes, Carlos." [Text source: Fall 2001 Spartan Scribe. Photo source: 1969 MSU FarmHouse composite]



The 1960s were, in many respects, the most successful decade to date for MSU FarmHouse. Yet, at the close of the decade, social change, civil unrest, and the intense debate surrounding the Vietnam War tore at the very fabric of the Fraternity, the Greek system, the University, and the world. Some very challenging times were yet to come.

More than three decades have passed since the close of the 1960s and, at the time of this writing, most of the 1960s FarmHouse initiates are at the peaks of their respective careers. This talented cohort has made a profound impact on a variety of professions and on generally improving the human condition and the world in which we live.