

FarmHouse Fraternity at Michigan State University

A Pictorial History

Originally developed for presentation at the
65th Anniversary Celebration, March 2001

Mark E. Havitz, MI 77



Part Three of Nine: FarmHouse Beginnings --
From 1905 to 1939

Michigan State's "missing something" had already begun about 1000 miles away in America's heartland. A great group of guys from the University of Missouri's largest ever agriculture class got together in 1905. They wanted to live and work together, but didn't consider themselves fraternity material.

They formed a brotherhood whose common ties were their rural roots and Christian heritage. They valued hard work and the pursuit of excellence. They valued fellowship and fun. They named their organization "FarmHouse." Here, clockwise from top left, are the principal seven: D. Howard Doane, Robert Howard, Claude B. Hutchison, Henry Rusk, Henry Krusekopf, Earl Rusk, and Melvin Sherwin. [Source: Spring 1975 *Pearls & Rubies*]

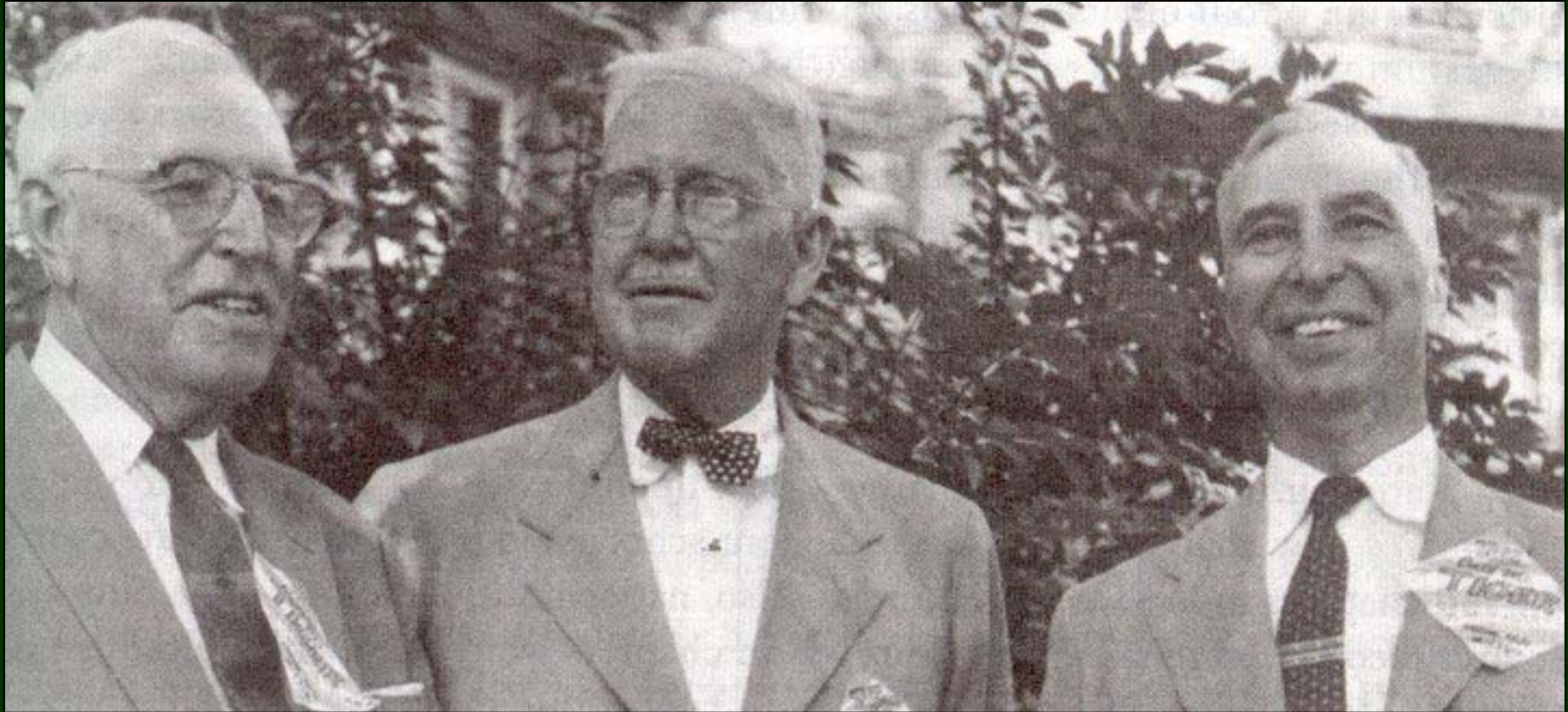


They were remarkable men. In the interest of time, I'll highlight just two of them, Doane (left) and Hutchison (right), pictured here as roommates in 1908. [Source: 1985 *FarmHouse Fraternity Alumni Directory*]



D. Howard Doane MO '05 was born in 1883. Recognized as the principal founder of FarmHouse Fraternity, D. Howard Doane also headed the first ever college Department of Farm Management from 1910 to 1916. He invented the "mule self-feeder." Doane was hired as Missouri's first county agent leader and was appointed the first official county agricultural agent in the United States. He served as president of the Fraternity from 1929 to 1933 and as a member of various FH Boards and committees from 1939-1950. He founded Doane Agricultural Service in 1919, the oldest and largest farm management, appraisal and research organization in the United States. Doane wrote the first published farm management field study in the United States (1908), and several books including *Sheep Feeding and Farm Management* (1912), *The Story of Lime* (date unknown but I'm sure the content was rather "basic" -- sorry, but it was time for a bad pun) and *Vertical Farm Diversification* (1950). He was appointed by President Herbert Hoover to serve on a committee which re-organized the USDA. He helped form the Agricultural Hall of Fame. Doane also founded a Kiwanis Club, numerous 4-H clubs, was first chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Missouri 4-H Federation, and received the Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Service to American Agriculture from the American Farm Bureau Federation. He served as moderator of his church, as an elder, as chair of its Board of Deacons, and chair of its Board of Trustees. He funded numerous scholarships, research grants, and endowments. D. Howard Doane wrote poetry. He died in 1984 at age 101.

Claude B. Hutchison MO '05. Among his many accomplishments were service as Dean of Agriculture at both the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Nevada. He also served as President of the University of California at Berkeley, and later as mayor of the City of Berkley. Hutchison died in 1980.



Here are Doane (left) and Hutchison (center) pictured 50 years after their undergraduate photo (1958) with H. H. Krusekopf at a reunion. The FarmHouse idea spread. Robert Howard, one of the original seven, joined the Horticulture faculty at the University of Nebraska in 1908. By 1911 a group had formed there, independently, but it is believed that Howard was one of their original advisors. Henry Rusk, another of the seven, was on the faculty at the University of Illinois where a FarmHouse group was formed in 1914. This Chapter was modeled after the Nebraska effort. Chapters at Wisconsin (this chapter did not last long and it later affiliated with another fraternity), Kansas State, Oklahoma, and Minnesota were all on board by 1931. [Source: 1995 *FarmHouse Fraternity Alumni Directory*]



The man seated at left is Orion Ulrey, an IL '21 FarmHouse initiate. After receiving his terminal degree Dr. Ulrey was hired as an Agricultural Economics professor at Michigan State College. He formed a FarmHouse interest group in the Spring of 1932. They met at the Hunt Food Shop. By 1933 the club was granted local fraternity status by MSC. After a campus visit by D. Howard Doane, FarmHouse officials decided that the MSC FarmHouse club wasn't yet ready to charter, but the national office did grant them club status. They rented a house at 323 E. Grand River Ave. By 1936 they were ready and received the Michigan State Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity received its charter on April 25. [Photo source: 1939 MSU FarmHouse composite, 1939 *Wolverine*]



The Hunt Food Shop

AIR CONDITIONED

CAFETERIA
(FIRST FLOOR)

SERVICE DINING ROOM
(SECOND FLOOR)

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

Dr. Ulrey was an innovator. In addition to MSU FarmHouse, he founded the Ulrey House Co-op, and the Michigan State University Credit Union (above). Professor Ulrey died on February 29, 1992. [Source: MSU website]

Dr. Ulrey is pictured here (front row, 2nd from right) in 1974 with “Daddy” Doane (front row middle) and other chapter founders who attended the 1974 Conclave at Purdue University. [Source: Fall 1974 *Pearls & Rubies*]



There have been several other “founders” among the Michigan State Chapter’s ranks. Here are two of them.

Bert Krantz, MI ‘36 helped found UC Davis chapter and was president of the UC Davis Association at the time of his death. Dr. Krantz served as a soil specialist emeritus at UC Davis (57-79). His career focus was with improving food production in developing countries. He also served as professor of agronomy at North Carolina State (43-50) and directed the USDA Irrigation Field Station at Brawley, CA from 50-54. He started research programs of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in India. A national scholarship, available to FarmHouse men from any chapter, has been established in Dr. Krantz’ name. [Source: 1936 MSU FarmHouse composite]



John Foster MI ‘41 helped found the Kentucky Chapter. He also served as vice president of Presbyterian Homes and Housing Foundation. [Source: 1941 MSU FarmHouse composite]



It's noteworthy that our Chapter was founded in the 1930s; one of only two to do so during the Great Depression. I've selected the 1933 group to represent the 1930s. This is the first formal group photo ever taken of MSC FarmHouse men. It was taken on the steps of our Chapter house at 323 Grand River Avenue.



Winfield Harrison '36, bottom row second from right, was the second president of the club, serving during winter term 1933 when the club lived together for the first time. Note: Club members who graduated prior to 1936 were formally initiated with their brothers at the Chartering in 1936. I have included a history of the club years on the following pages and two others as appendices to this report. [Photo source: 1933 MSU FarmHouse composite]

Top row: (left to right) R. Karen, Herb Berg, Harry Lutz, Cloyce Hankinson, Glenn Hendershot, Louis Drake. Second row: Orion Ulrey, Hogue, Herman Walt, William Thorp, Julius Drake, William Meyer. Third row: Oscar Aue, Willis Parmelee, Jim McMilliam, Fred Burgess, Walter Kirkpatrick. Fourth row: Clair Monroe, Dean Gordon, Ford Crosby, Williams, Tompkins. Bottom row: Lowell Schaffer, N. Hart, Anthony Ptshnick, Winfield Harrison, Harold Harrison.

The History of the Farm House Club

In the spring term of the year 1931-32 Professor O. Ulrey of the Economics Department met with a group of agricultural students of this college for the purpose of establishing a Farm House Club for those students who wished to enjoy the benefits of a fraternity, but who could not join a fraternity because of financial difficulties. This small group of twelve students met once again during the term but no definite plans were made except that they met again in the following year and added other agricultural students who showed an interest in a plan of this type, to their group.

In the fall of 1932 the Alumni members of the FarmHouse Fraternity on the Faculty of Michigan State College sponsored a breakfast for this group of students and other individuals who showed promise of being beneficial to the group. Lew T. Skinner, Secretary of the FarmHouse Fraternity, spoke to the students, giving them the history and the principles of the FarmHouse Fraternity and expressed his confidence in the group. He felt that in the near future they could establish a chapter of the FarmHouse Fraternity at this college.

The History of the Farm House Club, continued

Two weeks later Professor Ulrey again met with the students, and this time definite plans were set as to their activities during the rest of the term. The boys at once decided that they secure a means by which they could live together for the following term and that they go under the name of the "Michigan State Farm House Club". Stanley J. Williams, a senior in the Horticultural Division, was chosen to head the group during the fall term. A committee was appointed to look for new members for the Club. This committee strove to pick those men who had good scholastic rating and who would reflect credit upon the club. Another committee was appointed to find a suitable place for the members to live for the following term.

At the close of the fall term the membership was increased to thirty students, all from the Agricultural and Veterinary Divisions. By this time the house at 323 Grand River Avenue had been selected as the club house. Seventeen of the members pledged to move into the house at the beginning of the winter term. Mrs. D. Decker, who lived in the house, was chosen to provide room and board for the boys at a very reasonable sum and was also chosen to act in the capacity of "house mother".

The History of the Farm House Club, continued

At the start of the winter term officers were elected to serve until the end of the term so that new officers could be elected at the close of the term for the following year, as such was the procedure of other organizations on the Campus. Winfield S. Harrison was selected to head the organization during the winter term. President Doane of the National organization visited the club and expressed his approval of the local club, offering suggestions as to how it could improve itself. During the winter term the boys managed to raise their scholastic average to a 2.88 average for the group.

Cloyce L. Hankinson was elected President at the close of the winter term for the following year. At the beginning of the spring term four of the boys and Professor Marshall attended the National conclave at the FarmHouse Fraternity in Urbana, Illinois, making a report on the progress of the club and receiving much useful information and advice to aid in building up our club.

The History of the Farm House Club, continued

During the term the club gave its first party which was very successful. Patrons were Dean E. L. Anthony and Dr. L. M. Turk. At present there are 28 active members of the club and 3 pledges.

The Farm House Club has already taken an active part in the Agricultural Division. Seven of its members are now on the Agricultural Council, one of whom is president of the Council.

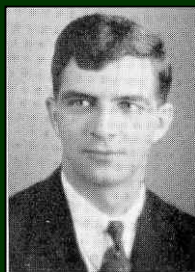
During the coming year Farm House plans to raise its standard of scholarship and morality as it has already done. Also, during the coming year the club hopes of being admitted to the National FarmHouse Fraternity and thus establish a chapter at Michigan State College.

Note: This history was re-typed verbatim from a mimeograph original that Mark Havitz received when pledging in Spring Term, 1977. Author unknown.

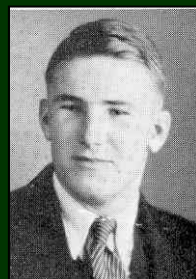
That first house at 323 Grand River Avenue (pictured at top right) was located next to Kewpee's Hamburgers which is pictured here at bottom right (in 1955) some 20 years after the by then razed property had served as the Fraternity house. Kewpee's occupied the site of the large Jacobson's Department Store which operated there from 1972 to 2001. The 1934 yearbook, from which the house picture was scanned, noted that "Since Farmhouse [sic] is hardly out of the embryonic stage, it might be well to treat briefly of its history. It was formed as an agricultural fraternity on June 3, 1933. Prior to this time it had existed for a few months as a club." After noting the numerous campus leadership positions held by its men, the yearbook added, "So the infant is off to a healthy start. May it ever remain free from colic and strawberry rash." I believe that 1934 represented the first year that FarmHouse appeared in the MSC yearbook, but will avoid a definitive statement until which time I can locate a 1933 issue of the *Wolverine*. [Sources: 1934 *Wolverine*; *Through the Years 1847-1997 -- A Pictorial History of Greater Lansing,*]



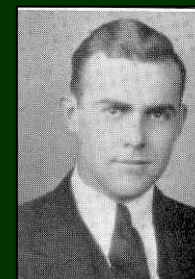
A glance at the activity level in the Senior photo credits from the 1933-1934 *Wolverine* suggests that the FarmHouse club recruited wisely during their first year. I have profiled these men (12 of the 14 were pictured) because they all graduated prior to the MSC Chapter receiving its Charter. [Source: 1934 *Wolverine*]



AUE, OSCAR
Muskegon
Farm House; Ag. Council;
Grange; 4-H club; Horticultural club; Bee seminar; president '33; Officers club.



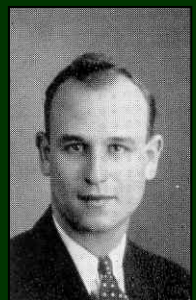
DRAKE, LOUIS Ag.
Gaylord
Alpha Zeta; Farm House; Ag. council; Ag. Econ. club, pres. '34.



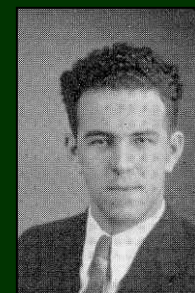
HENDERSHOT, GLENN
Tecumseh Econ. Ag.
Farmhouse; Grange; Secretary and Treasurer Ag. Economics club.



BOWMAN, IRA Ag.
Leroy
Farm House; Alpha Zeta;
Farm Crops Judging.



ELWOOD, EVERETT Ag.
Tipton



MEYER, WILLIAM Ag.
Atlanta



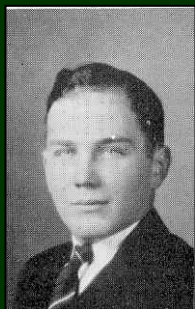
BURGESS, FRED Ag.
Alpha Zeta; Block and Bridle; vice-president '33; Live-stock judging; Farm House.



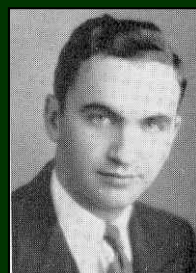
GRAF, GOTTFRIED
Stockbridge Dairy Ag.
Farmhouse; Michigan Agriculturist '31, '32, '33, associate editor '34; Vice-president Dairy club '34; Grange; 4-H club; Dairy Cattle Judging team.



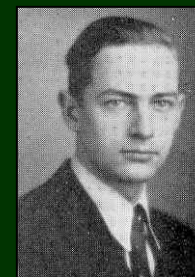
MONROE, CLARE Ag.
Pittsford
President Book-keepers Seminar; Ag. Council; Grange; Dairy club; 4-H club; Dairy Products Judging team; Farmhouse.



CROSBY, FORD Ag.
East Lansing
Block and Bridle, president; Ag. Council; Farm House; Animal Husbandry Judging team.



HANKINSON, CLOYCE
Morrice Ag.
Ag. Council president '34; Alpha Zeta secretary '34; President Dairy club '34; President Farmhouse '34; Danforth fellowship '33; Dairy products judging team; Dairy cattle judging team.



PARMALEE, RUSSELL
Hopkins Ag.
Farmhouse; Alpha Zeta; Dairy club '32, '33, '34.

Although recognized as a fraternity by MSC, FarmHouse remained club status with our national office until April 25, 1936. Here is a reproduction of the installation program. The amazing speaker roster included (top row, left to right) the National President of FarmHouse J. C. Holbert IA '27, MSC President Robert Shaw, two deans (Earnest Anthony and Fred Mitchell); three initiates (bottom row, left to right) Glenn Hendershot, Leslie Winchell, and Vernon Holmberg; and concluded with an address by D. Howard Doane. Oh, to have been a fly on those walls! [Photo sources: 1925, 1939, 1942 *Wolverines*. 1934 and 1936 MSU FH Composites. Text source: Program reproduced from the personal collection of Jerry Hull '51.]



INSTALLATION BANQUET

**Michigan Chapter
FarmHouse Fraternity**

April 25, 1936
6:00 P. M.

UNION BUILDING
MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
East Lansing, Michigan

PROGRAM

Chairman— O. Ulrey

Presentation of Michigan Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity - - - - J. C. Holbert
National President

Responses - - - - Glen C. Hendershot
Leslie L. Winchell
C. Vernon Holmberg

Remarks - - - - R. S. Shaw
President, Michigan State College

E. L. Anthony
Dean of Agriculture, Michigan State College

Fred T. Mitchell
Dean of Men, Michigan State College

History and Ideals of FarmHouse Fraternity
- - - - D. Howard Doane
Founder and Past President

CHARTER MEMBERS
MICHIGAN FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

Graydon Blank	John Krauss
Carl Cetas	Lawrence Larson
Julius Drake	William Mason
Wesley Graham	James McMillan
Arnold Green	Grant Nickle
Floyd Gregarek	Theron Nivison
Arden Foster	Carleton Palmer
Denzel Hankinson	William Pitts
Vernon Holmberg	Anthony Rapes
Walter Jacob	Morell Russell
Andrew Johnson	Roy Wallis
George Johnson	Lee Wetherby
Bert Krantz	Leslie Winchell

Chapters
of
FarmHouse Fraternity

Missouri, University of Missouri 1905

Nebraska, University of Nebraska 1911

Illinois, University of Illinois 1915

Kansas, Kansas State College 1921

Iowa, Iowa State College 1927

Oklahoma, Oklahoma A&M College 1928

Minnesota, University of Minnesota 1931

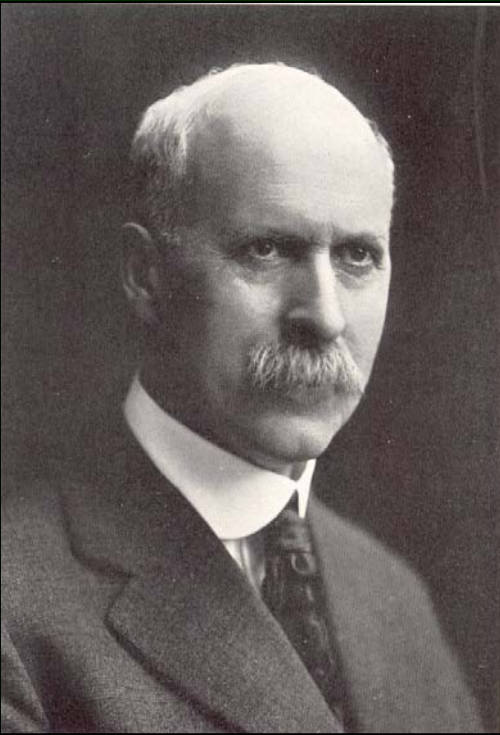
Michigan, Michigan State College 1936

As the next few slides attest, FarmHouse members were extremely active on campus right from the get-go. The 1937 Agricultural Council featured Bert Krantz '36 (back row middle), Graydon Blank '36 (back row far right), Denzel Hankinson '36 (front row third from right), and Carl Moore '36 (not pictured). Hankinson served as Council President that year and Carl Moore did likewise in 1939. [Source: 1937 *Wolverine*]



The Kedzie Chapter of Alpha Zeta was founded in 1903. The prestigious academic honorary is named in honor of professor and MAC president (1915-1921) Frank Stewart Kedzie (right), son of professor Robert Clark Kedzie. [Source: 1919 *Wolverine*]

1939 Alpha Zeta members (left) included FarmHouse's Carl Moore '36 (front row, far left), Gerald Memmer '38 (back row third from right), Clarence Stuart '37 (third row third from left), Ned Bayley '38 (third row far left), and Leonard Eggelton '38 (second row far left). [Source: 1939 *Wolverine*]



Block and Bridle, 1939 featured Don Eppleheimer '39 (top row second from left), Leonard Eggleton '38 (second row third from right), Andy Jackson '38 (front row far right), Carl Moore '36 (second row fourth from left), Miles Newell '39 (third row far right), Carl Shopbell '36 (top row third from left), advisor Vern Freeman, associate member '43 (front row far left), Ned Bayley '38 (front row second from left), and Clarence Stuart '37 (third row fifth from left). [Source: 1939 *Wolverine*]



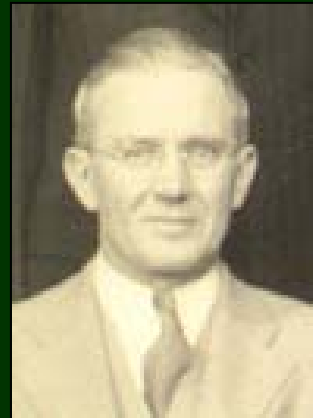
The 1939 Dairy Club included Ray Ely '38 (top row far right), Ed Hankinson '36 (top row far left), Tony Rapes (not pictured), and Gleason Rohlf's '39 (not pictured). [Source: 1939 *Wolverine*]



As noted in the 1939 *Wolverine*, "Excalibur is a local organization on Michigan State campus which binds together the outstanding senior activity men of the college. Its purpose is to recognize achievement in student leadership along various fields. The membership is restricted to 13. Tapping for Excaliber occurs twice a year. At the first tapping, held at the Water Carnival, eight junior men are tapped by the senior organization. The remaining five men are selected by the eight new members at the Excaliber fall term dance. Excaliber members have a weekly informal luncheon meeting at which time they meet with their faculty adviser, Captain David Taylor. To the freshmen, the blue robes of Excaliber symbolize the ultimate aim of a B.M.O.C. To these select seniors, they symbolize collegiate success." (For those unfamiliar with this now seldom used term, BMOC stands for Big Man on Campus). Pictured below right is the 1938/1939 group photo. The following year James Beal Kelly '38 became the first FarmHouse man tapped for membership. Kelly was president of the Union Board (he's seated center in the left hand photo) then one of the most influential student organizations on campus. He was also a member of the Dairy Club and Dairy Judging team, the FH representative to IFC, and Chairman of the 1940 Military Ball. Kelly was followed into Excalibur by C. Dean Allen '48 (insert), David Bogue (not pictured), and David Boyne '54 (featured in the 1950s section). The Excalibur tradition survived through the 1960s, but to my knowledge, Excalibur no longer exists at MSU. [Source: 1939 and 1940 *Wolverine*, 1950 FarmHouse composite].

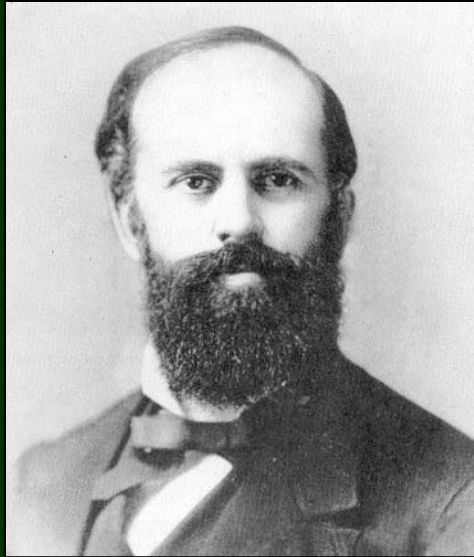


Dr. Lloyd Turk MO '25 (top left) was one of the Chapter's most important and loyal advisors during its formative years. Other important advisors dating to the 1930s included Drs. Roy Marshall NE '11 (center) and Herb Berg IL '20 (bottom right). All were MSC College of Agriculture faculty members. [Source: 1937 and 1942 FarmHouse Composites]



Campus, despite the Depression, grew slowly but surely in the 1930s. Robert Clark Kedzie Hall (pictured here), the new chemistry building replacing the beloved old “Chem Fort,” was one of the new buildings. This building has been a fitting tribute to a dedicated scholar.
[Source: 1939 *Wolverine*]



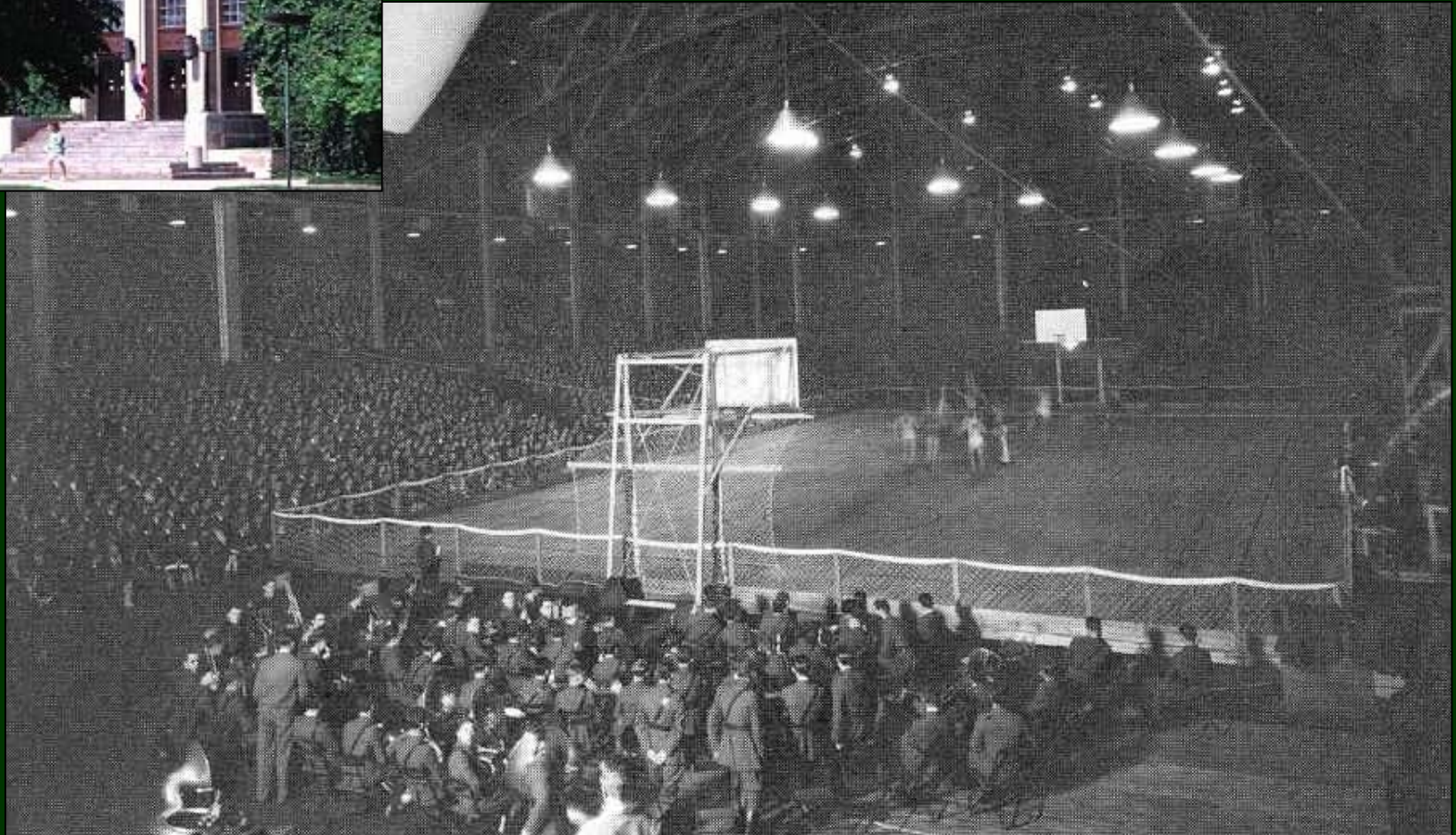


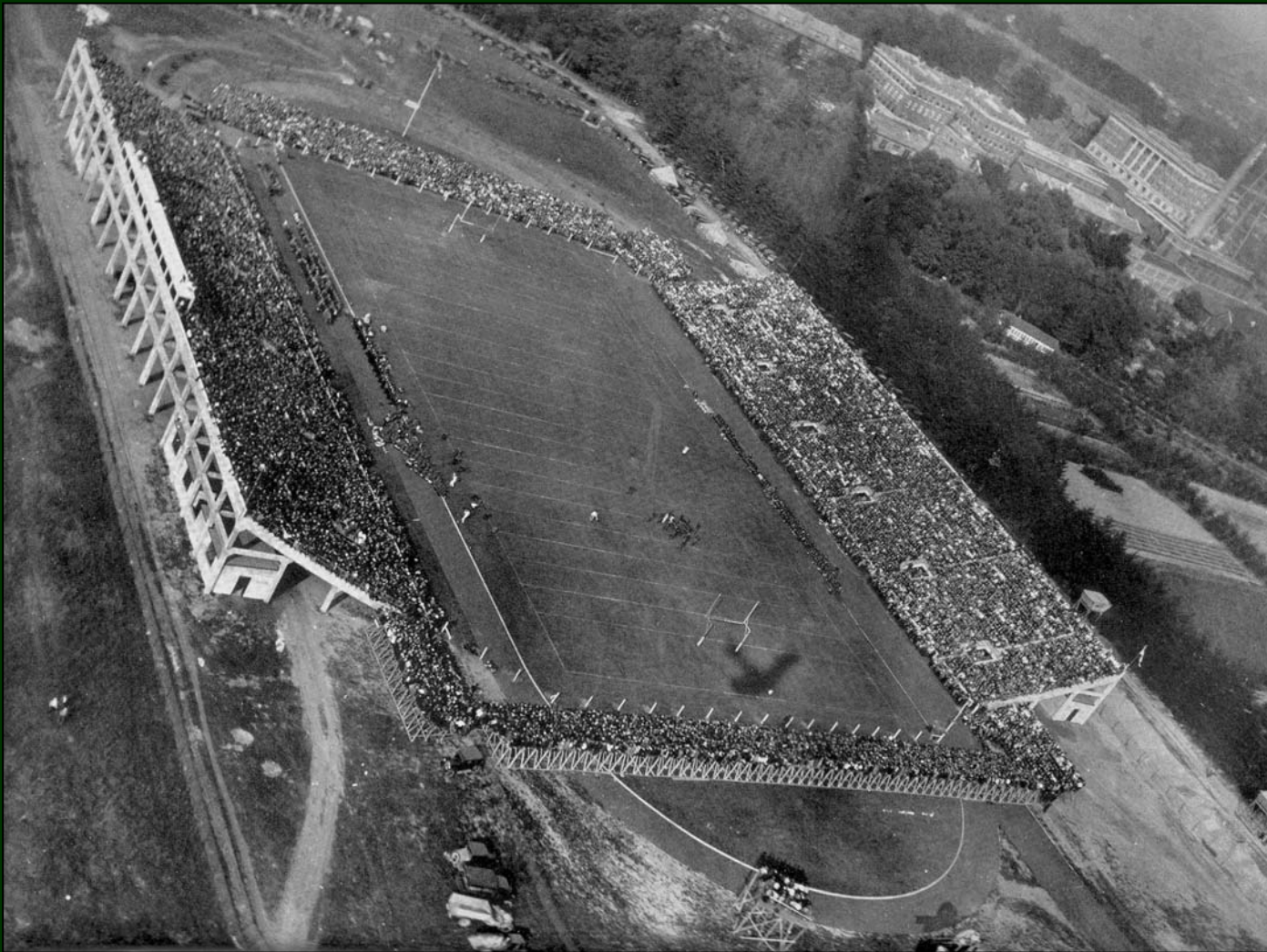
The new theatre/auditorium honored George Thompson Fairchild who served the college in numerous capacities from 1865 to 1879, including a stint as acting president from 1872 to 1873. He later served as president of the Agricultural College of Kansas (now Kansas State University). [Sources: 1955 *Wolverine* and MSU Website.]





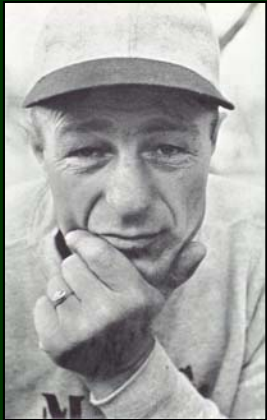
Another new building, Jenison Fieldhouse, was made necessary because the Gymnasium built in 1919 had proven too small to meet Campus needs for both intercollegiate and intramural competitions. The 1919 Gym is now named the Circle Intramural Building. This 1930 basketball game in sparkling new Jenison Fieldhouse featured Notre Dame as the opponent and was the first game played on the new portable floor. Note the netting around the edge of the court. [Source: MSU Website, *Spartan Saga - A History of Michigan State Athletics*]





This 1933 aerial photo taken from above the south end of the then 8-year old football stadium is interesting on several counts. The low white building visible on the right side of the photo just in front of the stand of trees near the river is the Forestry cabin. That site is currently occupied by the third Wells Hall (better known to several generations of students as the Math building). Other visible campus buildings in the upper right hand part of the photo include second Wells Hall (a dorm, current site of the library), Olds Engineering Building, the old physical plant (current site of the Hannah Building) including the MAC smoke stack and water tower, and Ag Hall. The shadow of the plane is visible in the south end zone. [Source: 1934 *Wolverine*]

Football coach Charlie Bachman (top left) put some good teams on the field during this era. Bachman's Boys, as they were known, won 6 and lost 3 in 1938. That team featured a FarmHouse man, Stan McRae '37 (number 13 in the third row from the top of the team picture), whose claim to fame was tearing the "8" off of the jersey of Michigan's "Old 98" Tom Harmon during a MSC-UM clash (I don't believe it was in the 1938 game though). UM beat MSC by 14-0 in 1938. Harmon later won the Heisman Trophy. The "8" still sits framed in the FarmHouse trophy case. McRae (also pictured at bottom left) was a successful lumber man and influential member of the business community in Mackinaw City for many years. A big man, he played the part of Paul Bunyan at various festivals and celebrations. Stan McRae passed away in the late 1990s. [Photo sources: 1939 *Wolverine*]



The photo at right shows the framed maize and blue "8" nestled among other FH memorabilia when the trophy case was being re-arranged in the 1979-1980 school year. [Source: Personal collection of Ken Brodbeck]

Stan McRae '37 was not the first MSC FarmHouse initiate to earn a varsity letter, however. That honor most likely belongs to FarmHouse club member Harry Lutz '36, an MSC fencer from 1932 to 1935. The FarmHouse Club also boasted two MSC wrestlers, Walter Jacob '36 and Leslie Winchell '36. Both were members of the 1934 squad (Jacob was on the team through 1936) and both were initiated as Charter members of FarmHouse in 1936. Team photos are provided on the next page. Another varsity athlete during the 1930s was Tony Rapes '36, also a Charter member, who was on the track and field team from 1935 to 1938. Lutz was a successful farmer in Georgia later in life. To date, I have not located career information on the other three men. [Source: 1934, 1936 and 1937 FarmHouse Composites]



Lutz



Jacob



Winchell



Rapes



The 1934 yearbook noted that Harry Lutz '36, 3rd from left in this team photo, “with fencing foil, sabre and epee won two-thirds of his matches.” The Spartans finished 5-1 including victories over Notre Dame and Purdue. Their lone defeat was a 10-7 loss to Ohio State. Both photos on this page were taken on the front steps of the old (1919) Gymnasium (now Circle IM) which had recently been replaced by Jenison Fieldhouse as the campus’ main sporting venue. [Source: 1934 *Wolverine*]

Walt Jacob '36, pictured here front row far right, and Leslie Winchell '36 (not pictured) wrestled for now legendary coach Fendley Collins (top row, far left) during the 1930s. Then just a sophomore, Jacob ranked second on the 2-4 1934 team in points scored while grappling at 145 pounds. [Source: 1934 *Wolverine*]

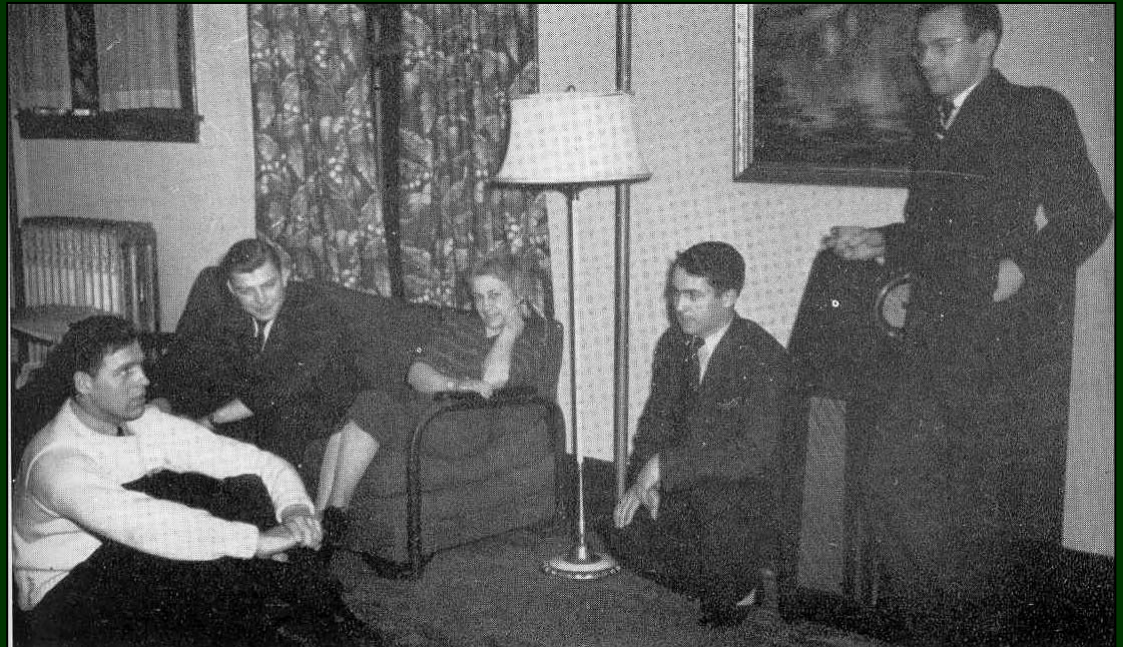


Home for the Fraternity during this time was 526 Sunset Street. The property was rented for some years, then purchased in 1944. The mortgage was burned in 1952. [Source: 1937 *Wolverine*]

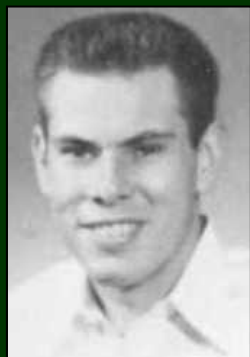




The top photo provides a living room scene in 1939. The yearbook caption did not reveal the names of the pictured brothers or the mascot. Mrs. Nell Bartlett was Housemother. More on her later. A second photo from the same era captures a similar mood. Pictured from left are football star Stan McRae '38, Ken Anderson '39, Mother Bartlett, Union Board president James Kelly '38, and Dick Christian '39. [Source: 1939 and 1940 *Wolverines*]



Most FarmHouse initiates either have, or can name a brother who has relatives in the House: Fathers, sons, cousins and uncles. Maybe someday soon, some grandsons and great-grandsons! It is possible to trace family legacies by leafing through old composites and looking for familiar faces. Although introduced out of chronological order (none were initiated in the 1930s), a quick glance at four members of the First family supports this point.



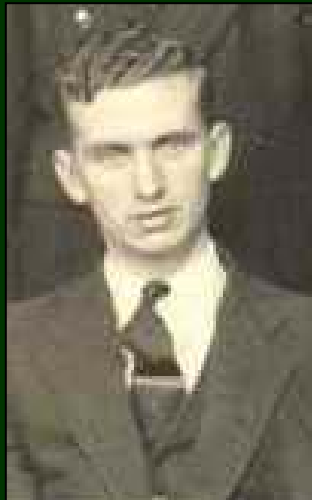
From left: Brothers John '52 and Neal '51 both made their mark in agricultural related careers. John operated the family dairy farm near Ionia for many years, with a mid-career interruption to work with a Peace Corps agricultural development project in Afghanistan, whereas older brother Neal became a world-renowned geneticist at the University of Wisconsin. His story is continued on the next page. Their younger brother Richard '54 also went the academic route and was a sociology professor at The Ohio State University at his untimely passing in 2000. John's son Dan '79 carried on his father's legacy by running the family farm, which he and his family still do today. [Source: 1952, 1951, 1956 and 1981 MSU FarmHouse composites, Mark Havitz personal photo collection.]



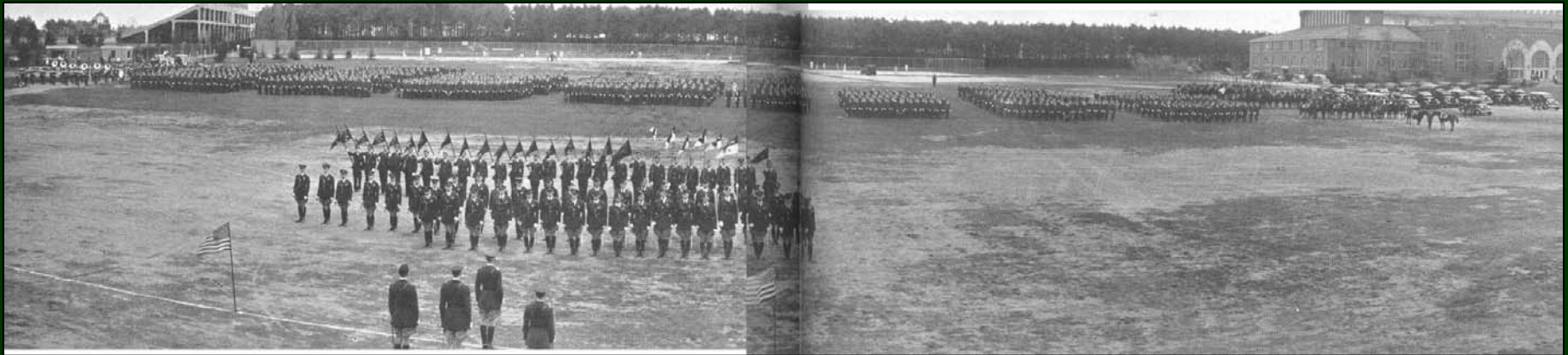
Dan & Margie at First Farms, 2005.

Neal First retired as the L.E. Casida professor of Reproductive Biology and Animal Biotechnology from the University of Wisconsin in 2005 and is looking forward to an active retirement with his family and horses. This synopsis of his career was supplied by his nephew Dan First: Sometimes called the "father of cloning", Neal received his BS from Michigan State College in 1952. After serving two years in Korea, Neal returned to MSC to begin a Masters degree in Ag Education. He was soon offered a part-time teaching job at MSU where he taught and conducted research while working on his MS and later on his Ph.D., which he received in 1959. He continued on at MSU in the Animal Husbandry Department, doing research in freezing of ram semen and artificial insemination in sheep and pigs. In 1960, Neal moved to the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where he did the same sort of research, but expanded into an interest in the birth process. His research group found that the trigger of birth begins in the fetal brain, then the adrenal gland and then goes to the mother, initiating hormones in her that cause the birth process to start. They found this was true in all animals studied. Studies then began on male reproduction and how sperm was prepared to fertilize eggs. This led to research on how eggs mature. Eggs came from slaughter houses and sperm was available through the artificial insemination labs. In vitro fertilization began in cattle. In the 1980s, Neal and his students began research on genetic engineering of embryos by introducing other DNA (genes). By then his lab had grown to about 20 people involved with changing of embryos. This was called cloning. The researchers from Scotland who cloned Dolly the sheep came to visit to see how Neal's lab was cloning embryonic stem cells which was done with nuclear transfer by fusion. As cloning studies continued, his lab found that the clones differed from normal and they had their problems. These cloned embryos were mostly lost in pregnancy. In addition to College and University level teaching awards from UW, Neal has received several national and international awards for his research. Among them are: 1. The 1987 Alexander von Humboldt Award, presented annually to the person judged to have made the most significant contribution to American agriculture during the previous five years. 2. The Society for the Study of Reproduction's 1991 SSR Physiology Award, which recognizes a member of the Society for outstanding research published during the previous six years. The committee considers the significance of problems under investigation, the breadth and depth of the analyses performed, and the level of originality manifested in the publications of this work. 3. The 1993 Morrison Award presented by the American Society of Animal Science, to the member of the ASAS who has done outstanding recent research that has been of direct importance in livestock production. 4. The 1996 Wolf Prize in Agriculture. The Wolf Prize is awarded to living scientists and artists for "achievements in the interest of mankind and friendly relations among peoples", "irrespective of nationality, race, color, religion, sex or political views". It is awarded in six fields: Agriculture, Chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, Physics, and an Arts prize that rotates annually between architecture, music, painting and sculpture. The Wolf Prizes in mathematics, physics and chemistry are often considered the most prestigious awards after the Nobel Prize or Fields Medal.

Family resemblance is also apparent in the Hankinsons, arguably the first MSC FarmHouse dynasty. Four brothers from Morrice, the Hankinsons made an important impact on the Fraternity, other MSC student organizations, the food science industry, and in defense of the country. Pictured left to right are Cloyce, Denzel, Edwin, and James. Cloyce was the third president of the FarmHouse Club, and the first to serve a full-year term, which he did during the 1933-34 school year. He retired after a long career as Director of Research for the Borden Corporation. Denzel served as an officer in several campus agricultural organizations. He later earned a Ph.D. from Penn State and retired as Professor Emeritus of Food Science at the University of Massachusetts. He served Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream in an advisory capacity during that company's start-up days. James finished his career as a Farm Service Advisor with Consumers' Power Company. Edwin's contributions to the World War II effort are highlighted in the next section. [Source: 1934, 1937, and 1939 MSU FarmHouse composites]



War was again on the horizon as the 1930s came to a close. A wider screen is really needed to fully appreciate this photograph of an ROTC review which occupied two pages in the yearbook. This ROTC review stretched from the front of Macklin Field (so named in 1935 until the upper decks were completed in 1957 and it was renamed Spartan Stadium) to Demonstration Hall. John Macklin was MAC football coach from 1911 through 1915, a 5-year period in which the Aggies ran up a 29-5 record. Note the tennis players on a series of courts situated where the present IM West (formerly Men's) Intramural Building has stood for many years. The students of the time referred to the ROTC drill field as "The Plains of Sherburne". [Source: 1939 *Wolverine*]



The men of the 1930s laid a firm foundation for the fledgling Fraternity, one which served the Chapter well in ensuing years. As well, many of the men served in World War II and forged successful careers in later years. Although few are still with us as of this writing, it is a pleasure to recognize our Founders! Godspeed to a splendid group of men, the vanguard of what author and television news anchor Tom Brokaw recently termed "America's Greatest Generation!"