

# ARTHUR N. KUGLER

CONSULTING ENGINEER

13 PHILLIPS ROAD  
GREENBRIAR

BRICK TOWN, NEW JERSEY 08723  
TELEPHONE: 201-458-0015

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
LICENSE No. 6270

NEW YORK STATE  
LICENSE No. 14360

June 4, 1982.

Mr. Neale Bedrock, HSP  
Alpha Rho Chapter  
Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity  
273 High Street,  
Newark, N. J. 07102

Dear Brother Bedrock:

Brother Robert M. Sheehan, Executive Director of Alpha Sigma Phi wrote to June first suggesting that I write to you about the earlier years involving Alpha Kappa Pi (AKT) and Phi Nu which preceded it. I assume that Brother Sheehan's reference to "your earlier involvement with Alpha Kappa Pi" relates to my period as one of the vice presidents in the early years. I had to give up that activity in the early '30's--the depression!--as my company (Airco) took a dim view of such activities!

To start at the "beginning"--I joined Phi Nu, an unrecognized local at SIT about '23 or '24. We rented a house from the Institute, across from the Administration Building, on River Street. The fraternity had been founded a few years before by the Tobin brothers--I think Vin was one name. We had about forty members, about half residing at the house. It should be realized that in those years SIT was largely a commuting student body. I was a commuter from NYC. We had a very active membership with many leaders in student activities. I believe we had petitioned the Interfraternity Council of SIT for recognition.

In my senior year (I graduated in '25) I remember serving as president. However, on a recent visit to the Alpha Tau House, I saw some record of another name for president that year. I do not have any clear recognition of just what happened.

Of course, in this same period we were actively seeking a national connection. In 1926, a year after my graduation AKT WAS formed with the chapter at Wagner and carry their name into the national. Another local at Brooklyn Poly became Beta and SIT-Phi Nu- became Gamma. The reason given then for the organization of a new national was that the old line fraternities were loath to expand. The formation of AKT was largely the work of one Rev. A. H. (Burt) Wilson, a former president of the national Sigma Nu and a former Interfraternity Council president. Burt Wilson was also a

Mr. Neale Bedrock

Page Two

family friend, thus I knew him before the AKT episode. He was a Methodist Minister, his church was at 110 Street and Lexington Avenue.

From about '26 to '29 I was unable to do much fraternity work as I was a field engineer working in New England. In October 1929 I went with Air Reduction Company, now known as Airco. My office was in midtown Manhattan. The Alpha Sigma Phi conventions were held at a residence hotel in the neighborhood. Thus I was able to attend several annual conventions. At the time that Prof. Parke B. Fraim was elected national president, I was elected a VP. My work for Airco required travelling and I was able to visit some of the new chapters. However, as I stated before, Airco took a dim view of this activity, and the depression being what it was, I had to give up!

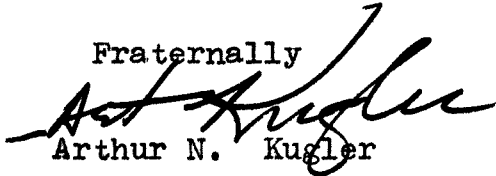
' Fracas'

Sometime in that period, or maybe later, there arose a ~~fracas~~ "between the national secretary and others and he turned in the books. I was asked to serve as custodian of them. They were in my possession until 1972 when I moved from Ridgewood, NJ down here. I wrote to Ralph Burns and he accepted the books.

At this point I think I should explain the letter head I use. In 1967 when I retired from Airco after 38 years, I was the Chief Welding Engineer of the Airco Welding Products Div. I undertook a limited practice of consulting engineering. It has been very active until last year. About five years ago Mrs. Kugler's health has deteriorated and today she is a bed ridden invalid requiring constant care. I will not use a nursing home as I think they are inhuman. Thus my time is taken up with her care. And my consulting 'biz' is finished.

And now I must apologize for my inept typing, but I figured it was the best way to pass along the information.

Fraternally

  
Arthur N. Kugler

cc: Brother Ralph M. Sheehan, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Delaware, Ohio.

*P.S. I have never been inducted into AΣΦ!*