

THE SIGMAN

GEORGE SPASYK—40 YEARS OF SERVICE

George Spasyk, Lambda Chi Alpha General Director, left the University of Michigan in 1949, but he never could drag himself away from Lambda Chi. In July of 1950 he began a career at Lambda Chi national that would span 40 years of challenge and success. 556, a seemingly random number, was a nostalgic reminder for George Spasyk—Zeta Numbers have a way of sparking memories of Sigma.

On June 30, 1990 George will be retiring. George's passing signifies a crossroad not only for the national fraternity, but also for Sigma. As hundreds of Sigmas, both past and present, can testify, having an alumni as Executive Director often gave the actives extra incentive to perform needed duties. Now Sigma must prepare to deal without the advantages and aid that George often gave his alma mater. We all appreciate George's contributions and are thankful. The men of Sigma wish George a happy retirement and hope he will be able to pursue those interests which have been on the shelf for the past forty years. In the most recent issue of *Cross and Crescent* George gives the following reflections in his article "On Expiration Dates":

"There are those among us who are a bit paranoid about expiration dates on food packages and containers. Half of the containers in my ice box (I never did learn to call it a refrigerator) have dates on them that have expired. Eventually, most of them get tossed out, but occasionally, I will use something that's "out-dated" if it isn't too old. I just can't believe that something with an expiration date of May 31 will turn bad at 12:01 a.m. on June 1. I have one jar of Mayonnaise that has an expiration date of July 15, 1889, and I'm still using it!

At any rate, those expiration dates are constant reminders that nothing lasts forever—not food, not plants, not people and not careers.

In Ecclesiastes III:1 we read: 'To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.'

My 'season' as a member of the professional staff of Lambda Chi Alpha has been a long one—thirty nine years to be exact. Never in my wildest dreams or imagination could I envision, when Duke Flad offered me the opportunity to serve the Fraternity as a Traveling Secretary July 1, 1950 that I would finish my professional career still serving the Fraternity. Having turned sixty-five last July, and after a great deal of prayerful thought and consideration. I have concluded that it is in my best interest and the best interest of the Fraternity that I announce my retirement as of June 30, 1990, which will complete an even forty years on the staff.

Having made and announced my decision, I should like to share some thoughts with you on what I perceive to be an unprecedented opportunity for both the Fraternity and the Lambda Chi Alpha Educational Foundation to establish new and dynamic professional leadership for both organizations. The Grand High Zeta has authorized a restructuring of the staff to provide for an Executive Vice-President for the Fraternity, effective July 1 of this year (that should look good on my resume.) The Foundation will have an executive director and director of development, and the search for a person to fill this position is currently underway. The affairs of the Foundation have become far more complex and require far more staff involvement than was available under our previous structure.

There are plans under consideration for doubling the size of the headquarters building and for replacing our computer system, and there will have to be a long-range plan to fund these projects. It is timely that a new Executive Vice President will be on board in the early stages of the implementation process. I anticipate a smooth transition, even though we haven't had much practice at it. (It is a source of pride that in eighty years, Lambda Chi Alpha has had only three full-time chief executives.)

Needless to say, I will devote my fullest energies during my remaining year on the staff to leave the Fraternity in the best possible shape for my successor. I have been guided throughout my fraternal career to do whatever I can and must do from time to time, with the best interests of the fraternity foremost, but never losing sight of the fact that in this profession, we are dealing with human lives, human emotions and human needs. And this extends to all segments of our Fraternity and beyond: our undergraduates, our alumni volunteers, our staff and to the Universities and the communities which have welcomed our presence.

My heart is full to overflowing with thanksgiving to so many people. Certainly to all who read this message—and I am genuinely sorry that I cannot address each of you personally at this time. But I am thankful to so many others who live now in blessed memory, and who have served as my mentors and my inspiration, among them Duke Flad, Lew Plourd, Houston Karnes, Bruce McIntosh, and principally my mother and father, Polly and George, who came to this country as immigrants at the turn of the century, and saw their dreams for their son fulfilled.

Following retirement, I hope to fill my remaining days with satisfying activity; to find peace and beauty in my literature, writing, music, nature, friendships and family; and to love life and joyously live each day to its ultimate good.

In the meantime, there is still work to be done, and some mountains to climb. During the next year I shall continue to speak out on those issues that confront us, no matter how controversial, and I shall call on you for assistance and support. Remember, my expiration date is not until June 30, 1990."

—George Spasyk

ALUMNI INFORMATION - SIGMA ZETA - UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Note: Information received will be used in future issues of THE SIGMAN.

Name _____ Nickname _____

Class year _____ Initiation No. _____ Degree(s) _____

Occupation _____ Title _____

Firm _____ Nature of Business _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ / _____ Office Phone _____ / _____

Business Address _____

Wife's Name _____ Date of Marriage _____

Wife's College _____ Class _____ Degree(s) _____

Wife's Sorority _____ Children (ages) _____

Fraternity activities, offices, as a student _____

Fraternity activities as an alumnus _____

Interests, hobbies, clubs, civic, political, professional or cultural groups you are in:

News you would like to see appear in THE SIGMAN: _____

Relatives in Lambda Chi Alpha (their chapters, years) _____

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