

Stephen Davidson Bechtel, Jr.

Colorado '47

Oxford Cup Roll No. 031

Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr., *Colorado '47*, joins his father, eminent builder and financier, as the first father-son pair to hold this honor. The father, Stephen D. Bechtel, *California '23*, received his Cup on April 28, 1987.

The son was accorded the same honor at age 72 as Chairman Emeritus of Bechtel Group, Inc., engineers and constructors. He is Chairman Emeritus also of The Fremont Group and Sequoia Ventures, Inc., separate affiliated companies that manage and operate in marketable securities, natural resources and other selected investments.

Born May 10, 1925, at Oakland, Calif., he was initiated into Beta Theta Pi Nov. 21, 1943, as N° 748 on the the roll of Colorado chapter. Completing his B.S. degree in civil engineering at Purdue in 1946 following World War II Marine Corps service, he married Elizabeth Hogan on June 5, 1946. They have three daughters, two sons and 16 grandchildren. He received his master's in business administration from Stanford University Graduate School of Business in 1948.

Honored by Colorado, Purdue, Stanford, many learned societies and four Presidents of the United States, he has been asked for advice in national and international projects ranging from urban housing and pollution control to major conferences on productivity and wage standards.

An Honorary Fellow of the U.K.'s Institution of Chemical Engineers and a Foreign Member of its Royal Academy of Engineering, he also is an Officer of the French Legion of Honor and a Director and Life Member of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor. In 1994, he received the Distinguished Achievement Medal of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor.

Some of these honors are diverse. In 1979 the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) cited "his skill, enterprise and foresight in managing one of the world's largest civil engineering projects: the Jubail Industrial Complex in Saudi Arabia." This was followed by the 1980 Herbert Hoover Medal and the 1982 Chairman's Award from American Association of Engineering Societies and the ASCE 1985 Washington Award. That same year, seven national engineering societies awarded him the 1985 Washington Award for "his skillfull, foresighted and efficient leadership in construction engineering."

In 1991 President Bush awarded him the National Medal of Technology, the highest American honor bestowed for technical achievement, in recognition of outstanding leadership in the engineering profession and for developing and applying advanced management techniques to world-class industrial projects.

With it all, his personal interests and hobbies include golf, tennis, bird shooting, fly-fishing, cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, photography, dog training and field trials.

Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, General Fraternity Historian