

Burton W. Folsom

Nebraska '49

Oxford Cup Roll N° 020

Few men have given of their time and resources to Beta Theta Pi as constantly and consistently as Burt Folsom. A Beta for more than 50 years, he was chapter counselor to Alpha Tau, Nebraska chapter, 1958-62; district chief for Iowa and Nebraska, 1962-64; General Treasurer, 1964-67; General Secretary, 1967-71; Alumni Affairs Commissioner, 1975-77; Fund Trustee, 1984-87, and President of the Fraternity, 1987-90.

Even before, he was a key person in Lincoln Beta alumni activities and recently was a founder of the Austin (Texas) Beta Club. Between his Beta Board terms and again since completion of his term as President, he has attended Conventions and addressed Beta gatherings.

Born March 21, 1925, in Lincoln, Nebr., Burt grew up in that city. On January 13, 1943, as a 17-year-old freshman headed for military service, he became #671 on the roll of Alpha Tau. He was the seventh Beta in a Nebraska Folsom line which total totals 11. First was an uncle, then Burt's father and brothers. The string includes Burt's son, Thomas L. Folsom, *Westminster* '74, plus four cousins and a great-nephew. Burt was initiated with his father's 1914 badge, and he quickly bestowed in turn upon a fetching Nebraska Alpha Phi, Margaret Reese.

By May, he had been inducted into the Army. Over the next three years, in the European Theater with the 1st Infantry Division, he earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Returning to college and Margaret, he found the Beta chapter closed; he now confesses that Margaret got more of his attention than the inactive Alpha Tau, and she married him in 1946.

By completion of his Bachelor's degree in 1949, there was the beginning of a family. Back in uniform, 1950-51, the Army had him in its 36th Combat Engineer Group at Camp McCoy, Wisc. There was also a Master's degree at Indiana University, 1963, as he began his Beta roles as chapter counselor and district chief.

Burt and Margaret's family includes Burton W. Folsom, Sally Folsom Pavalis, and Thomas L. Folsom, *Westminster* '74. They remained in Lincoln until a 1981 merger of Nebraska Central Building & Loan Assn., of which Burt had become CEO. He also was president, Executive Club of Lincoln; chairman, Employee Division, United Way, and president, Country Club of Lincoln. In Westminster Presbyterian Church he was chairman, Board of Deacons, and Clerk of Session, president and chairman, Westminster Foundation. He is a trustee of University of Nebraska Foundation. He was a director, Nebraska Savings and Loan League.

In 1982, the Folsoms moved to Lakeway, Texas, where he has been president of the Homeowners Assn.; editor of *Homeowners News*; trustee/treasurer of Lakeway Church; a director of Lakeway Recreation Assn. and the local bank; president of Lakewood Town & Gown, and former Lakeway City Councilman. He claims that he finally caught up with Margaret with three holes-in-one.

Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, Historian