

# Robert T. Howard

## *DePauw '37*

### Oxford Cup Roll No. 033

Long-time General Fraternity Historian, 1979-98, and Editor of *The Beta Theta Pi* magazine, 1955-63, 1976, Robert Thomas Howard was the compleat Beta volunteer for more than 50 years. The Oxford Cup was presented to him on July 23, 1998, by Administrative Secretary Robert L. Cottrell, *Miami '54*.

After graduating from DePauw, he completed a master's degree in journalism at Northwestern University. He was a reporter, copy editor and rewrite man with the *Indianapolis News* until 1947, taking time out for Navy duty during World War II when he served in nine Pacific combat operations as a communications officer aboard cruisers and the aircraft carrier *Cowpens*.

In 1947, Bob moved to Oxford, Ohio, as Miami University's Sports Information Director. In 1956 he was named director of the University News Bureau and in 1960 was promoted to Director of Public Information. He retired in 1978.

For the General Fraternity, Bob served the Tutor-in-Residence Selection Committee for a dozen years, half that time as chairman, and was a long-time member of the Founders Fund Scholarship-Leadership Awards committee. Besides authoring the centennial history of DePauw chapter, he was a key author of Beta history during the "Heritage I" session, 140th General Convention.

As General Fraternity Historian, he wrote all of the biographical tributes on the 32 Oxford Cup recipients since the program was introduced in 1984 until this one. Most recently, he served on the select committee that planned the Archives Museum in the new Foundation and Administrative Office in Oxford.

A long-time member and president of the Oxford Museum Association, he headed efforts to restore the DeWitt log house, the oldest structure in Oxford Township, as well as historic Black's (covered) Bridge and he contributed to the maintenance and operation of the Pioneer Home and Farm Museum.

The 1977 Oxford *Citizen of the Year*, Bob was publicity chair for the Oxford Bicentennial Committee, on the board of Butler County Council on Alcoholism, officer of Oxford Kiwanis Club and session chair/speaker for regional and national conferences of Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

In 1989, he was inducted into the Miami University Hall of Fame in recognition of his many years chronicling the achievements of Miami athletes and for his involvement in the development of the now noted Cradle of Coaches. He was also awarded honorary membership in the University's Alumni Association.

Born in Mount Vernon, Ill., he was married to the former Betty Ritchie Howard for 36 years until her death. He married the former Madra (Kuehn) Hutchinson of Hamilton, Ohio in 1983. His family also includes son Robert T. (Tom) Howard, Jr., Asheville, N.C.; daughter Betsey, Anchorage, Alaska; a stepdaughter; three grandsons and four granddaughters. He died in Oxford on Aug. 15, 1998.

— *Erv Johnson, Idaho '53, Editor, The Beta Theta Pi*