

Charles S. Mechem Jr.

Miami '52

Oxford Cup Roll No. 054

Under the leadership of Charles S. Mechem Jr., *Miami '52*, Taft Broadcasting, later known as the Great American Broadcasting Company, expanded from one station into a diversified company with six AM, six FM and six television stations around the United States. The company included Hanna-Barbara Productions, Inc. and Cinemobile System, Inc., film and television studios in Hollywood and family amusement parks in Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina and Ontario.

His business associates know him as one who generates exceptional loyalty and performance from those who work for him. He has an eye for detail and the capacity to absorb it. He serves on the boards of the Messer Construction Co., The J.M. Smucker Company, Ladies Professional Golf Association, Myers Y. Cooper Company and Royal Precision, Inc. Brother Mechem has served as chairman of the board of U.S. Shoe Corporation (1993-95), Cincinnati Bell Inc. (1996-98) and Convergys Corporation (1999-2000.) From 1991 to 1995, he served as commissioner of the LPGA, and he continues to serve as Arnold Palmer's personal business advisor.

Mechem has served on the boards of numerous Cincinnati-based civic organizations. At the national level, he has been a member of the Presidential Board of Advisors on Private Sector Initiatives, the Joint Council on Economic Education and a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development.

The Nelsonville, Ohio, native was initiated into the Alpha chapter of Beta Theta Pi on October 27, 1949, and was president during his senior year. He was also president of the Student-Faculty Council, the Young Republican Club and Omicron Delta Kappa. A Phi Beta Kappa, Mechem received the Herschel D. Hinckley award as the outstanding junior man on campus. He served a nine-year term on Miami's Board of Trustees from 1980-89, received an honorary doctor of laws in 1980 and continues to serve on the advisory board of the Richard T. Farmer School of Business.

Following graduation, he married the former Marilyn Brown and the couple departed the Buckeye State for Connecticut, where Mechem spent three years at Yale Law, graduating second in his class. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1955. He practiced law with the firm of Taft, Stentinius and Hollister for a dozen years, with a three-year interruption from 1956-59 for service in the U.S. Army attaining the rank of captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

— *Thomas C. Olver, Central Michigan '98, editor, The Beta Theta Pi*