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Deceased: C.S. BURROWS, ZETA PSI FRATERNITY'S OLDEST MEMBER, DIES

Date: November 3, 1987

Services for Charles S. Burrows, 100, of 211 LaFayette Road, who died Saturday at Community-General Hospital, will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Welter-Price Funeral Home. Burial will be in Oakwood-Morningside Cemetery.

Calling hours will be 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. today at the funeral home. Friends will also be received at 211 LaFayette Road immediately following the services.

Mr. Burrows retired in 1959 after many years with the advertising sales department at The Post-Standard. Before that he had a career as a real estate and insurance salesman.

But Mr. Burrows attained a status that few attain in life and it wasn't for his business accomplishments.

Mr. Burrows was a living legend. He was hoisted to that status by his dedication to his fraternity, Zeta Psi, and the school on which it stood, Syracuse University. Until Saturday he was the world's oldest living Zeta Psi member.

"He was not only a legend among the guys in Syracuse, but he was nationally known," said Jim Gosier, president of the Syracuse Association of Zeta Psi. "As he got older, the legend grew."

At his service Wednesday, Mr. Burrows will have as his pall bearers the officers of the SU Zeta Psi chapter. Among his mourners will be the president of the fraternity's 53-chapter international organization.

A native of Little Falls, Mr. Burrows came to Syracuse in 1907 to attend SU's School of Architecture. He graduated in 1911.

"He was great for telling war stories, stories of the university and how it's changed over the years," Gosier said. "He loved to tell about coming to SU on a train from Little Falls on a baseball scholarship."

For 50 years, Mr. Burrows was the corresponding secretary for the Syracuse Association of Zeta Psi, the organization of local alumni.

One of his duties was the publishing of a newsletter. It was peppered with drawings, jokes and some wisecracks aimed at fraternity brothers he knew.

"He put so much pride into putting out the quarterly newsletter," Gosier said.

"He was very active in the fraternity from the day he was initiated until the day he died," said Douglas Cohen, undergraduate vice president of Zeta Psi. "He was just a high-spirited guy. He always came to the little sister rush."

Mr. Burrows' son, Fred, also a member of Zeta Psi, remembered his father attending the little sister rush, in which coeds are invited to become associated with the fraternity in an auxiliary role.

"One of his statements to them was that they weren't officially little sisters until they kissed him," the younger Burrows said.

"And it worked every time," said Gosier. "It was quite frustrating for us undergraduates. We'd come all spiffed up and here was this 92-year-old man in the corner, and all of a sudden he'd have 50 girls sitting around him."

About 50 years ago Mr. Burrows was responsible for getting the fraternity's house at 727 Comstock Ave., Gosier said.

"Charlie was the one who accepted the deed and signed the mortgage for the fraternity," he said.

"We just renovated our house, and we dedicated our library to him," Cohen said.

There is a plaque commemorating the dedication in the library of the house at 727 Comstock Ave.

Among the honors Mr. Burrows received was Zeta Psi's highest award in 1980, and a scholarship was established in his name last year.

He was active for many years in the Kiwanis Club, the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Syracuse Homebuilders Association and many other civic organizations.

Mr. Burrows also was an avid sports fan and, as a member of the SU Orange Pack, a great booster of Syracuse University football and basketball. "If you cut him, he had orange blood," Gosier said.

His wife of 62 years, the former Amelia Smith, died in 1974.

Surviving are a son, Fred S. of Syracuse; two grandchildren, John L. and Terri A. Garafalo; and several nieces and nephews.

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