The Fire at Theta Tau - Beta Chapter. MTU-228

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	The Fire at Theta Tau - Beta Chapter, Michigan Tech, Houghton, Michigan, April 5, 1962.
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Date:	2015.
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Abstract:	History of the Theta Tau-Beta fire at Michigan Tech on April 5, 1962 written by former Theta member Al Stimac.

Preferred Citation

MTU-228, The Fire at Theta Tau - Beta Chapter, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

Historical Note

The Beta chapter of Theta Tau was established in 1904 on the then Michigan College of Mines campus as the Rhombehedron Club, a group for young engineering students. In 1906, the club was renamed and formally recognized and established as a professional engineering fraternity. Fraternity members participated in a variety of campus activities and student organizations and clubs, as well as intramural sports.

The fraternity's first clubhouse succumbed to a fire in 1928 and the fraternity moved to a house on College Avenue where the University's Administrative Building currently resides. Another fire in 1962 destroyed the Theta tau house, and the fraternity was relocated to a house near the Portage Lake Golf Course, where the fraternity resided until 2011. In an attempt to move the fraternity closer to campus activities and resources, the Theta house was moved once again to a newly constructed house on rezoned land off Fairview Street near the Forest Hill Cemetery in Houghton. Theta Tau was placed on a five year suspension in December 2013 following conduct violations. However, the fraternity was subsequently found guilty of additional violations and failure to comply with their suspension in February 2014 and again in April 2017 leading to the fraternity's permanent expulsion from Michigan Tech as a student organization in 2017.

Scope and Contents

History of the Theta Tau-Beta fire at Michigan Tech on April 5, 1962 written by former Theta member Al Stimac. Includes a compilation of reminiscences and biographies of members at the time of the event.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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