

Dallas Alumni Time Capsule

The Kappa Kastle

Years before Brother Mitchell would stake his claim in South Dallas with St. Martin's Place, the chapter's popularity and financial success would be symbolized by another achievement when the chapter purchased its own fraternity house. After many years of meeting at the homes of various Brothers, the Martin Luther King Community Center, the American Woodmen's Center and other locations, the discussion of the idea of our own "frat house" became serious during the Mitchell Administration. Mitchell, Lattimore and Alford developed a strategy to purchase a facility. Carlyle Chapman Jr. (son of the Past SWP Polemarch) was brought in to help create the 501c3 foundation in 1984.



Following that, the Dallas Alumni Life Membership Program was established. The \$2500 membership fee would go to the foundation as seed money for a down payment. Mitchell, Lattimore and Alford became the first three Dallas Alumni Life members and more brothers followed suit. After hosting the Conclave in 1988 the purchase of a frat house became a top priority once again. Then-Polemarch (1989 to 1991) Brother **Carlton Barber** "kommissioned" Brother Emerson Lattimore to conduct a feasibility study in the form of a survey regarding the purchase of a house. Other chapters like Baltimore Alumni, Houston Alumni and Los Angeles Alumni boasted having



their own "Kappa Kastles." Dallas Alumni would soon join their ranks. Following the presentation of his findings, the chapter agreed that the time was right to buy a house. Brothers Alford and Lattimore scouted potential locations and although a plot of land had been purchased earlier as a potential site, an existing structure was purchased at 2515 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd on December 12, 1990. The down payment was made with the funds from the life membership program and as a show of their personal commitment to seeing this idea through, the three Past Polemarchs, (Mitchell, Lattimore and Alford) signed the promissory note.

The mortgage was assumed by **Carl Williams** during his tenure as Polemarch from 1993 to 1995 and would be completely paid off in six years. This was commemorated by a mortgage burning ceremony at the house following a Founders' Day observance. The refurbished home, located in the heart of South Dallas, was now the new home of the Dallas Alumni Chapter, and enabled the chapter to conduct meetings twice a month, host social gatherings and initiation ceremonies, preserve important documents and store equipment, display awards, photos and safeguard esoteric materials. It would also serve as the headquarters for our Guide Right Foundation of Dallas, Inc and quickly become a landmark on what would become a modern day "Black Greek Row."