

The Cornell Alpha Delt

First published in 1896

Summer 2003

Dedicated Alumni Are The Key To Securing A Strong And Vibrant Future For The Phi

In the 19th century, our founder, Samuel Eells, seeing the need for an entirely new model for college fraternities, wrote:

It was a contemplation of these and similar evils that first suggested to me the idea of establishing a society of a higher nature and more comprehensive and better principles, one that should combine all the advantages of a union for intellectual and literary purposes and at the same time maintain the integrity of youthful character and cultivate those finer feelings which the college society extinguished or enfeebled. The new association, first, must exclude that jealousy and angry competition, and secondly, must be built on a more comprehensive scale providing for every variety of taste and talent, and thirdly, it must be national and universal in its adaptations so as not merely to cultivate a taste for literature, or furnish the mind with knowledge, but with a true philosophical spirit looking to the entire man so as to develop his whole beingmoral, social, and intellectual.

Alpha Delta Phi grew out of Brother Eell's clear vision of an ideal social structure, emphasizing cooperation over competition, variety over conformity, and guided by the highest aesthetic, intellectual, and moral principles. Now, 171 years later, the brothers of Alpha Delt are



The brotherhood in 1885

faced with new challenges, unique to our modern world, and we stand at a critical, perhaps pivotal

moment in our organization's history. Once again, the efforts of just a few men have the potential to steer and secure the future of thousands.

Over two centuries, the very idea of fraternity has evolved, while in practice, chapters nationwide have had to adapt to big changes in societal attitudes, and to the new no-frills economy. Meanwhile, the public and media have not caught up to the reality of the fraternity experience today, let alone our historic vision of training men in the four ideals of brotherhood, leadership, service, and sacrifice.

While the modern fraternity experience still contains many of the traditions and delights that we fondly recall from our undergraduate days, our colleges and our fraternal societies exist in a somewhat different context today—with young people spending less time and energy absorbing fraternity traditions, challenging their relevance, and causing alumni organizations less caring, less patient, and less dedicated than ours to question the basis for continuing their core commitment. But it is exactly this type of fealty and ardor, expressed through a principled and courageous commitment by alumni, that is needed at this time.

The present moment of weakness in fraternity evolution is avoidable—it can be overcome by key individuals recognizing the value of our shared endeavor, and ensuring the same security for our brotherhood into the next century, regardless of impediments and distractions. This base will shepherd Alpha Delt through the 21st century and into the next.

Ålpha Delta Phi at Cornell University must continue to secure its position now, to guarantee a high-level presence on campus over the coming decades, regardless of how the fickle winds of fortune may blow. With competition developing on West Campus in housing facilities and programs, only those fraternities with the strongest ideals and most practical finances will be strong enough to survive. Already, there are other groups with a substantial start on building a substantial endowment base. University-owned fraternities are the most fortunate as they enjoy the ability to solicit tax-deductible donations under Cornell's nonprofit umbrella, with these funds being directed to both programs and physical plant improvements. At present, the Adelphic Cornell Educational

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Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell, Inc.

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Treasurer Jack Van Arsdale III '05

THE CORNELL ALPHA DELT

Published by the Cornell Chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity at Cornell University for its members, alumni, and friends. News contributions and photos are welcome. Please address all correspondence to the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

House Renovations Restore Glory Of Alpha Delt's Public Spaces

Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell has made enormous strides in updating our august and historic facility over the last two years. The recent completion of the McGraw Place project marked the end of a half-dozen-year effort to improve drainage and emergency access to the Alpha Delt compound at 777 Stewart Avenue and for the surrounding fraternities. Concurrently, a new bluestone front patio and a new retaining wall for the chapter house were completed, beautifully complementing the stone exterior of the Phi.

Inside, five bathrooms have been remodeled, with three bathrooms completed in the last 12 months. These recent bathroom upgrades were made to facilities in the basement, on the hallway just off the Great Hall balcony, and on the third-floor hallway outside the Tower suite. All bathroom projects included complete demolition of existing facilities with all existing utilities replaced. Durability, simplicity, and longevity were major goals in choosing material. Commercial grade fixtures usually found in airports and stadiums were used for their ability to endure heavy use and still look like new for decades.

In the summer of 2003, our efforts were focused on restoring the glory of the public spaces of the house and ensuring their preservation and protection for generations to come. Original light fixtures now sport modernized wiring and top-grade clear coating for a lasting shine. Additional lighting added in concealed locations enhances the appearance of the living room by night (or winter afternoons in Ithaca) without affecting the aesthetics of the room. New doors for the library and living room book collections are being added as well. Our most exciting projects include the installation of new bedroom doors matching the originals used in the house while meeting modern fire and safety codes. The newly installed doors will allow for the conversion of inner/outer rooms to true single rooms to increase the Phi's occupancy rate.

Finally, fully one-third of the lower level of the house is in the process of being remodeled into a multipurpose social room, to contain the crowds

and mess often associated with mixers, rush events, house rentals, and charity functions. This has required the demolition of the computer room, which senior alumni may recall was situated over the old basement "trunk room." The demolition of the computer room was done after seeking the approval of the trustees of the Adelphic Cornell Educational Fund (ACEF), whose philanthropy supported the existence of the computer room for nearly 20 years. However, the computer room had in recent years fallen into abandon and disuse as nearly every brother has his own computer and printer, and each room in the Phi has high-speed Internet access. Following the completion of the multipurpose room, the Great Hall and main floor will be reserved for small gatherings or formal functions such as faculty receptions, the Homecoming banquet, and Victory Club charity balls.

We are grateful to the many alumni donors whose contributions have made possible these upgrades to our living quarters and these needed investments in the future of the Phi.

> XAIPE, George W. Doerre '04 Spring Undergraduate President



Ron Schaefer '78 becomes ensnarled in fiber optic cable while rewiring each bedroom in the Phi for high-speed Internet access. Thank you to Ron, Nick Matuszczak '01, and the other Adelphic Cornell Educational Fund (ACEF) supporters who made possible this important technology infrastructure upgrade.

Alpha Delt Welcomes 18 New Brothers

Active brothers returned to Ithaca in January 2003, a week before the start of classes for the spring semester, to take part in this year's formal rush. While maintaining the Phi in meticulous condition, brothers had opportunities during the day to meet and socialize with rushees. Evening activities allowed brothers to get to know rushees better and judge whether they were a good match for Alpha Delt.

Rush week culminated in a Saturday afternoon paintball trip and Sunday formal bid acceptance dinner. When all was said and done, the hard work of the actives prevailed as 18 rushees signed bids. The new pledges then dedicated themselves to 10 weeks of rigorous training in preparation for assuming the responsibilities of brotherhood. These exhausted and elated men were initiated in April 2003 in a ceremony presided over by the president of Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity International, Edward J. Donahue, Johns Hopkins '68. The charge to the new brothers was delivered by Dean of Students Kent L. Hubbell '67, and a special greeting to new brothers was given by James M. McCormick '69, father of J.J. McCormick '05, a current undergraduate officer.

This year's class of new brothers is extremely diverse, not only in age and geography, but also in ethnicity. The class is composed of several sophomore transfer students, as well as freshman men representing a wide range of states from New York to California. Alpha Delt's diversity is further strengthened this year by an international student who opted to join the Phi.

All new brothers, however, share one important characteristic: an ability to have a good time coupled with a serious commitment to academic integrity. The new brothers have already shown a dedication toward upkeep and improvement of the historic house they have joined.

One can only hope that this year's class continues this dedication, allowing Alpha Delt to advance, to prosper, and to strive to produce the most distinguished gentlemen at Cornell University.

> XAIPE, Marc Zawel '05 Spring Rush Chair



at Cornell and Alpha Delta Phi

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

- 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. ACEF board of trustees semiannual meeting, Harvard Room, Statler Hotel
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cocktails in the Great Hall

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 9:00-9:30 a.m. House corporation annual meeting in the library
- 9:30 a.m.-noon House corporation board of directors meeting in the library
 - 11:30 a.m. Tailgate on Kite Hill
 - 1:00 p.m. Football kickoff, Cornell vs. Brown
 - 5:00 p.m. ACEF annual corporation meeting
 - 6:30 p.m. Reception at Alpha Delt (Undergraduate brothers will lead house tours for alumni brothers and their guests.)

7:30 p.m. – 134th Alpha Delta Phi Homecoming Banquet

10:00 p.m. – Music and dancing in the Great Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

11:00 a.m. – Farewell continental breakfast

Renew your acquaintance with alumni from your era, meet the undergraduates, tour the chapter house, and see what's new around campus!

If you plan to come, please return the enclosed reservation card.

REUNION 2003 AT ALPHA DELTA PHI



Joe McAfee '63 and Jon Perry '63 think back on 40 years of friendship.



Dick '53 and Ann Wambach join Howie Schaffer '90 for dry wine and sweet tunes.



Don '59 and Dale Marshall take a tour of new construction in the Phi.



A large, attentive reunion crowd gathers in the solarium.



Rudy Koch '00 (top left), alumni board secretary, gives sage advice to undergrads Nick Kohan '03 (top right) and (bottom, left to right) Matt McCord '05, Josh Goldstein '05, and George Doerre '04.







John Golder '83 and Nat Bowditch '83 enjoy a sunny day in Ithaca.

Suzy Nelson, Cornell's associate dean of students for fraternity and sorority affairs, tells John Tuttle '81 that Alpha Delt is the best house on campus!



Thanks to the Sherwoods for entertaining the Alpha Delt reunion crowd as they have for decades. Little known fact: Harry Chapin sang with the Sherwoods when he attended Cornell.



Fred Parkin '63 is all smiles escorting his daughter Kathryn (first woman on left), hotel '04, and her friends to reunion events.

The Cornell Alpha Delt

McVoy Scholarships Extend Alpha Delt's Literary Traditions

A man of letters and a sportsman, Martin M. McVoy Jr., class of 1892, founded two companies in his lifetime and served as the first president of a third. Brother McVoy helped establish the Locke Steel Belt Company, a chain factory in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Next he founded the Industrial Underwriters, an insurance, bond, and real estate company. He also served as first president of V. and O. Press Company, a machinery manufacturer in Brooklyn.

As a dollar-a-day man in the demobilization program after World War I, brother McVoy was attached to the Annexation Commission in Hawaii, taking part in the successful effort to bring those islands under the protection of the United States. He regularly commuted between Honolulu and Berlin for many years in connection with his various businesses.

Martin McVoy had a wry sense of humor, once describing himself in answer to an alumni questionnaire as "chief slave and president" of the chain factory.

As an undergraduate at Cornell, he belonged to Alpha Delta Phi, and he continued to serve the chapter in later years. Immediately after graduation he acted as chairman of the fraternity's building committee. His leadership led to the fundraising and planning that resulted in constructing, in 1903, the first Alpha Delta Phi lodge at 777 Stewart Avenue.

Brother McVoy later demonstrated his loyalty to the Phi by establishing the McVoy Alpha Delta Phi Scholarships at Cornell. His other gifts to the university include the Martin McVoy Jr. Graduate Fellowships and the Martin McVoy Jr. Fund, established to offer prizes for creative writing.

The McVoy Alpha Delta Phi Scholarships are awarded once a year. Award amounts vary from year to year, most dramatically based on the number of applicants eligible in any given year and the investment return on the university portfolio in which McVoy funds are managed. Awards also vary from individual to individual based upon the applicant's financial need, existing educational loans, participation as a house officer, grade point average, tenancy within the Phi, and volunteer and leadership activities in the Cornell University community. Since the mid-1980s, the McVoy Alpha Delta Phi Scholarships have replaced loan and workstudy obligations for our deserving fraternity brothers in excess of \$150,000. In that same period, financial grants from McVoy funds to students eligible for financial aid has replaced general Cornell University grant money in excess of \$1,500,000.

For more information on scholarships and academic loans managed by the Adelphic Cornell Educational Fund (ACEF), contact Steven D. Ritchey '81 at sdr11@cornell.edu or at 610/738-4404.



Donor Spotlight

Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell University gratefully acknowledges the encouragement, counsel, support, and financial contributions of the trustees and donors of the **Adelphic Cornell Educational Fund** (ACEF). For the 2003-2004 academic year, the ACEF has approved a commitment to provide the Phi with \$15,000 in funding to support technology, literary, archival, and leadership development projects and to support scholarships and other efforts to encourage academic excellence. For more information on making a tax-deductible donation to the ACEF visit:

https://www.adphicornell.org/public1.asp or contact Thom Chirurg '64 by phone at 415/346-2191 or by e-mail at lday1@mindspring.com.

Dedicated Alumni Are The Key_

(continued from page one)

Fund (ACEF) channels a portion of their philanthropy toward Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell, but they do not fund physical plant improvements, capital campaigns, or endowments.

To stay competitive, a fraternity must have a physical facility superior to its competitors, whether they are dormitories, as on West Campus, or next-door neighbors, such as SAE or FIJI. The quality of the house, including its furnishings, décor, utilities, facilities, amenities, and the size of its rooms, are all critically important elements in preserving our lengthy heritage of aesthetic superiority, recruiting new members, and attracting income from rentals to outside groups.

Recent success with minor expenditures at SAE and the new houses at Sigma Pi and Phi Kappa Psi show that improvements in the facilities contributed to rushing success and improvements of member caliber within just two years. Sigma Phi has subsidized undergraduate living facilities at a level exceeding \$1,500 per bed per year, for many years.

The undergraduates want remarkable facilities. They also need programming assistance, which was not often the case in the past. Substitutes for hazing (a degrading insult to new members in which Alpha Delta Phi has never participated) such as Outward Bound training, the Cornell Ropes Course, and outdoor education offerings for new members; rush; and other programming will all make a difference. Leadership courses cost money.

The current Chapters of Excellence pilot program at Cornell for eight other fraternities and sororities is an additional example of programming resource. Our competitors are paying \$15,000 per year for two years for this augmentation of alumni involvement by hiring a joint program director.

Undergraduates in fraternities need all of the same resources that are provided to others in the university environment. They need up-to-date computer connectivity, excellent meals, comfortable rooms, and quiet places to study. First-class maintenance, never a hot topic in the past, but now subsidized by our competitors (such as at Sigma Phi), will continue to require funds.

Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell is fortunate to own its building independently, as do Chi Phi, Chi Psi, Delta Phi, and a few others in a strong position. As mentioned before, some other fraternities have the advantageous shelter of tax exemption, but also the dependence on Cornell ownership of the facility. Alpha Delt alumni are very adamant about the house corporation, Cornell University, and the Adelphic Cornell Educational Fund—our long-standing educational foundation—remaining totally independent and free, unlike some other groups that are considering selling or transferring ownership to Cornell for full tax-deductibility benefits.

Even though the current circumstances (both in society at large and in the Cornell higher educational environment) are quite different from those remembered by the many alumni who lived, studied, played, and learned at the Phi, a few of our brothers are leading the way into the next century. These brother alumni donors recognize the need to look toward the future and reinforce our legacy, no matter the obstacles.

Today, the Greek system is being challenged nationwide—by the universities, by the media, and by changes in society's views of fraternal organizations. Portrayals of chapter houses in Hollywood films and television shows continue to spread inaccurate and unflattering fictions about our members and our traditions. While the challenges of recruitment, rush, and maintaining the house are more difficult in this environment, the opportunities for alumni with vision to positively affect the undergraduate experience at Alpha Delta Phi are incredible. It is up to us, not only to support the physical plant of the Phi, but also to guide the undergraduates, to raise the standards of ethics and excellence, to reinvigorate our public image, and to secure our survival.

Who is going to guarantee that our chapter is better in the future than it was in the past? Only a few can do this, so that many can both help and benefit in the future. *Manus Multae, Cor Unum.* If you are a yearly contributor to the Phi, we thank you. If you have remembered the Phi in your will or estate plans, you have the profound gratitude of your brothers. If you are interested in joining the board or working on a project or committee, please let us know.

The future of the Phi is worth your investment and confidence. Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell is forever indebted to those dedicated few whose regular contributions of time and money strengthen and bolster the continuity and development of our revered institution of independent living and learning at 777 Stewart Avenue.

I recently received a letter from Mike Zak '75. Brother Zak wrote to tell me that he enjoyed the last newsletter and that it made him remember a conversation from a fall smoker in 1973 when he was sitting by the fireplace with a group of brothers. At one point Tom Bower '73 turned to him and said, "This place will change you."

Brother Bower's comment is both insightful and profound. I know that I was changed for the better by my days in the Phi. If you were also changed, I invite you to say thank you with your continued support. I also invite you to drop me a note (hbs3@cornell.edu) and share one of your favorite recollections for a future issue of our award-winning newsletter.

> XAIPE, Howie Schaffer '90 President, Board of Directors Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell, Inc.

The author gratefully acknowledges J. Michael Duesing and the staff of Stewart Howe Alumni Service for their research and editorial assistance in the preparation of this letter to alumni brothers.

- Did You Know?

The word "XAIPE" (pronounced kai-re) is an ancient Greek greeting. One meaning of the word is "hail," and it was traditionally used as a greeting between soldiers. However, it can also be used as just a "hello." If you are familiar with Latin, XAIPE equates to "salve."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Cornell University Welcomes Fraternities

Excerpted from A History of Cornell by Morris Bishop. Cornell University Press: Ithaca and London. 1962.

...Cornell from the first welcomed the fraternity. Andrew D. White had joined Sigma Phi at Hobart, Psi Upsilon and Alpha Sigma Phi at Yale, a cumulation which would now be frowned upon. His broad experience convinced him that the advantages of the fraternity far outweighed its drawbacks. Encouraged by administrative benevolence, seven societies established themselves in Cornell's first year, in this order: Zeta Psi, Chi Phi, Kappa Alpha, Alpha Delta Phi, Phi Kappa Psi, Chi Psi, and Delta Upsilon. They had their meeting rooms in the business blocks downtown (and at this writing some initials of the first members of Kappa Alpha may still be discerned, carved beside a door on Tioga Street, immediately north of State Street.) Not until 1878 was the first chapter house built, with lodgings for the members. This was Alpha Delta Phi, on Buffalo Street at Schuyler Place. The house is today, or was yesterday, an Ithaca College dormitory.

Against the fraternities the Independents organized, as early as December 1868, with the declaration that fraternities are "the foulest blots upon college life."

...We soon learned, had we not known it before, that a caste system existed at Cornell. At the top soared a half dozen of the best fraternities, though no one could define wherein their superiority lay. Below these were

several grades of fraternities, ranging down to scrimy; and still lover groveled certain professional and religious rooming clubs. Under all these elect lived in a vast plebian mass the Independents, the outsiders, the pills, the poops, the drips. They composed about two-thirds of the male student body. They were the rustic, the repellent, the unsociable, the overearnest in study. They were also the poor, who worked for their education. They were the nonconformists, at whom the fraternities took fright. And they were often the superior, who refused the subjections and the juvenilities of the fraternities. Many of the men of whom Cornell is proudest, to whom it is most grateful, were in their time pills, poops, and drips.

Some of the fraternities seemed more than luxurious to outsiders. They were modeled on the gentlemen's clubs of the great cities, then rich and arrogant, now mostly beloved anachronisms, if not merely memories. Chi Psi, in the Fiske-McGraw mansion, outdid them all; but the Alpha Delta Phi lodge with its separate temple set a new note in 1903, and Delta Phi occupied Llenroc, Ezra Cornell's splendid home, in 1911. The allurements of luxury to idle wealthy youth disturbed the President. "Rich parents send their sons to college as in summer they send them to the seashore or to the mountains," he said in his 1907 report. The fact seemed to him surprising.

Alumni Write... Alumni Write... Alumni Write...

WILLIAM T. COLE '40 lives with his children at Bill is in good spirits despite the loss of both legs due to poor circulation. Bill has regular contact with LAWRENCE WHEELER '40 and HUBIE EVERIST '40, and they all have fond memories of their days in the Phi.

ROBERT J. WOODS JR. '44 makes his home at

"I am planning on returning for my 50th in 2006," writes LAWRENCE H. BROWN '56, "and hope that all of my class of '52 initiates will do likewise!" Larry's address is

THEODORE F. OLT '57 wrote to us responding to a rumor circulating that the brothers in the 1950s were angels and altar boys. "We were bad in my day, but we didn't hold a candle to those guys who had the Phi from '45 to '50. Many were veterans, and they were not about to live by a set of rules devised for 18-year-old freshmen. I well remember a discussion in the fall of '53 as to whether or not we were going to abide by the rules requiring chaperones at parties. They had been registering grave stones with the Interfraternity Council for the last eight years.... We, at least the engineers, studied very hard for six nights a week, but from 1:00 p.m. on Saturday to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, there were no limits. We were, however, positively Victorian on sex. There was no hanky panky at the house, and I had no qualms about having my future in-laws as house party chaperones. The young lady who is with me in house party pictures from '54 onward is my wife of 46 years, and she considers herself as much an ADPhi as I am. Hell, she kept the pin!" Brother Olt can be reached by e-mail at and by "snail mail" at

The president of the Virgin Islands Olympic team,



HANS LAWAETZ '59 writes, "My spouse of 39 years, Judith, passed away January 30, 2001. But I have been very fortunate to have found and recently married another very charming woman. Teresa Falcone Lawaetz grew up training and showing Arabian horses (continued on next page)



Alumni Write... Alumni Write... Alumni Write...

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in Phoenix, Arizona, and has found it very comfortable to fit into my lifestyle living on a cattle ranch on a Caribbean island and attending international Olympic events. Two weeks after our wedding, which was attended by five of my Cornell Alpha Delta Phi fraternity brothers (BOB NELSON '59, DAN HALL '59, BOB McCLELLAN '59, CALVIN CARR '59, and RICK DYER '59), we went to El Salvador on our honeymoon with 75 members of the Virgin Islands Olympic team to attend the

Caribbean/Central American games." Send best wishes to the Lawaetzes at

HERVE MAUPIN '60 has a new address

Write to CHRISTOPHE M. BERGEN '76 at

MICHAEL R. ELLIOTT '87 works for Capital Arts Entertainment, where he can be reached by e-mail at His postal address is

JOHN D. VAROLI '90 returned to the U.S. in early July after 12 years abroad, mostly in Russia, where he reported for *The New York Times* and *Bloomberg News*. Now in the metropolitan New York area, John can be reached at



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"Wendy and I had a little baby boy on Friday, April 4, 2003," writes RICARDO RODRIGUEZ '93

. "We are all doing well, and I am enjoying the sleepless nights. All I need to do now is save for his tuition to Cornell!"

Congratulations to Pam and PETER J. BILFIELD '95, who got married in November 2002. Their new address is

PHILIP BALLARD '00 writes, "The deep South took some getting used to after two years in San Diego. From crawfish boils to Mardi Gras, I'm enjoying the southern hospitality." Brother Ballard is the anti-terrorism/force protection officer onboard the U.S.S. Stephen W. Groves based in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Drop him a line a

KEVIN P. ROBINSON '02 wrote to inform us that classmate KYLE "Pipe" CUNEO '02 announced his engagement in January. "He'll be married in summer '04 in Duluth, Minnesota," writes Kevin, whose address is

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

DATUS C. PROPER '56, July 2003

ERIC M. SCHAUFERT '81, *April 24, 2003* (A remembrance of Eric will appear in the next issue of the newsletter)

HERMAN C. SCHUMM III '44

In Memoriam: Datus C. Proper '56

Datus C. Proper '56, an author and former U.S. diplomat, drowned in late July 2003 while fishing in Hyalite Creek in Montana. He was 69. Proper was the author of numerous books and a regular contributor to *Field and Stream* magazine. Proper grew up in Yellowstone National Park, before driving his motorcycle to Cornell University to get a degree in English. He then served in the Foreign Service in Angola, Brazil, Portugal, and Ireland, where he met his wife. Along with fishing books, such as *What the Trout Said*, Proper wrote about pheasants and a travel guide for Portugal, *The Last Old Place*.