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Beta Sigma Phi Memories

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I am submitting this “memory” in honor of our friend and counselor, Bill Ross. My memory of being in Sydney, Australia, when he needed me, will never be forgotten.

When the phone rang one day, I was on a ladder painting the walls of our new home in the suburb of Turrumurra. Bill’s voice was a welcome surprise. He told me of a visitor, Elsie Guenther, who was due to arrive soon by ship in Sydney. He told me of his desire to have Beta Sigma Phi chapters in the country down under. Would I meet her when she arrived and assist her in this effort? My response was immediate. Of course, I would be delighted to be of service. I was a long-time member in chapters in Kansas, New Hampshire, and Michigan, and was used to meeting new friends this way.

To make a long story short, Elsie arrived and recognized the black and gold ribbons I was waving on the Sydney shore. Later, I was able to gather a group of women I had met during my short time in Australia, one of whom was my next door neighbor, Valerie Werner. She was the first member to accept the invitation and became their first president of Beta Sigma Phi. The enthusiasm of those first members will always be among my favorite memories. Their husbands, however, were leery of such an idea. Shortly afterwards, one of the men told me how much Beta Sigma meant to his wife. They became our champions from the word “Go.”

And now, Beta Sigma Phi chapters can be found from coast to coast in that far-away country.