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Beta Sigma Phi Memories

By: Pat Ward

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When I joined this organization in 1960 at the Baker Hotel in downtown Dallas, Texas, along with 300 other pledges, I had no idea how my life would be enriched by this association. In the beginning years, through the programs, I developed self confidence. The program on cake decorating and flower arranging gave me the confidence to say to my brother and future sister-in-law, "Don't worry, I'll do both for you!" And they accepted!! And I did it!!! In later years, holding offices at both chapter level and City Council level, I developed my organizational skills. I was able to apply these to various jobs and it has definitely helped me in later years. Attending conventions and even helping with them also gave me confidence and organizational abilities. But probably the biggest reward is the friendships I've developed along the way. Some of them have been fleeting but nevertheless had an impact on my life. Using the transferee privilege many times has brought me into many different chapters

- all unique in their own way. Although I've lost touch with many of the ladies from my early chapters, I still think of them and wonder where their lives have taken them and if they are still members of this great organization. After living in an RV for six years and traveling the USA, my husband and I have settled in California, but a piece of my heart still remains in Texas. I've always heard that the people of Texas are the friendliest, but the chapter I was welcomed into here in Arroyo Grande, CA, has made me feel as if I'm home. It's like no other chapter I've been in. It may be because we are all retired and have more time to do activities together. But we do have fun - in the Beta Sigma Phi tradition. I've introduced Beta Sigma Phi to many with the last names of Holmes, Barton and Ward - but my first name never changed - Pat. I would like to reach out to those members that have places in my heart.