

Date Collected; October 3, 1970

Place Collected: Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House

Collector's Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Bloomington, Ind.

Birthplace: New Castle, Ind.

Age: 20

Race: White

Occupation: Student

Religion: Church of the Brethern

71:42

Informant's Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Hammond, Ind.

Birthplace: Hammond, Ind.

Age: 22

Race: White

Occupation: Clerk

Religion; Presbyterian

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The first time I learned of the legend of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity house was some time last year. I had had a date with one of the members of the house and upon commenting on the age of the house was told the story of their ghost. However, it was not until this past Saturday night that I learned the whole story (or what is known of it).

The story has been passed down from pledge class to pledge class and now is known campus wide. This is precisely how Norm (my informant and my date for the evening) learned of the legend. Supposedly, before the Phi Tau's moved into the house it was owned by a local Bloomington resident. The man was rather wealthy and intelligent, so therefore designed and built the house himself. The owner was known to be a rather wierd man who isolated himself from others. Not long after moving into the house, his wife mysteriously disappeared. Two weeks later the owner placed a pistol to his head and killed himself. These violent happenings all seemed to be located in the basement. I use this in the plural sense because it is believed that the owner shot his wife in the basement. To this day one can see a place in the wall where the bricks are a different color as if they were patched. However, the house was new at that time and needed no repairs. What really seems coincidental is that the patch is just big enough for a body. The walls were obviously thick enough as there is a window that can be seen from the outside of the house but an opening to the inside has never been discovered. Also, the basement contains a tunnel which never has been explored( for obvious reasons), which leads to speculation that the tools of the murder might be



stored there. That is the history of of the house. The legend is that the owner still roams the house seeking forgiveness so he may rest in peace. The story is just not a story either as last year one of the members of the house was taken to the haelth center in shock. He had reportably heard footsteps on the stairs but there was no one there . Another member testified to seeing lights go off and on -and not from a short either. It seems one light would go on and then another in the corner while the original would go out. Several guys report hearing strange noises (especially the footstep pheneomenon).

There are others who believe the house has two ghosts. This dates from the fact that the second owner was a quack who preformed abortions in the house. Because of this , guys have said they have heard baby's crying in the night. This particular thing was experienced by my informant's roommate who is a very "down to earth guy" and not inclined to be very neurotic in the least.

Fact or fiction? No one can know for sure. I can only testify these reports have come from reliable sources. Concerning my informant, who does not tend to believe any supernatural happenings, he listens to his fraternity brothers with respect as he himself has experienced the footstep incident. Some of the guys have theories concerning the happenings, others except them as supernatural. whatever they believe, no one has ever excepted the bet of \$100 to sleep in the basement over night. The bet has held for five years.