



Shortly after we moved in, Larry, who was a professional bricklayer, built a nice, long, 3-shelf bookcase from bricks and stained boards. It was installed in the dining room. I built a 3-foot square (with a 1-foot square second tier, above it) end table from plywood and stained it. The 2 tiers of the table were connected by 10-inch long dowels. It was placed in the corner of the living room where the bricks serving as table legs were hidden by the sofa.

I felt that our little fraternity of 4 needed a proper Greek name. Larry found an old canoe paddle that could be used for this purpose. I sanded down the paddle completely and stained it. Using black paint I carefully painted large, Greek letters: Sigma, Fy, Nu on the face of the paddle. These Greek letters stood for **Signi-Fy-Nothing**, an appropriate name for our group of 4. I added our names (in smaller letters): Tom, Bill, Larry, Carlos. This paddle was mounted on the wall between the living room and dining room where it remained for the entire school year.

All of us have great memories of living together in this rented house. Fortunately, we were very compatible and had no significant problems with space, cleanliness, temperature, money or any of the usual culprits. We were each responsible for cleaning our own areas and took turns cleaning the rest of the house.

We held several large parties, which included beer and, sometimes, decorations but excluded hard alcohol. Mostly young people attended and we met several soon-to-be friends:

1. Our first party featured Carlos' friends Carl and Micki Weller who taught us how to do the Cha-Cha dance.
2. Following a U of M football game, we had a small dance in the basement using my portable LP record player.
3. On 12/31/57 we had a New Years Eve party (where I met the very special Ina Rae Stanton). [See Timeline (#17B)].
4. On 1/25/58, we held a College Graduation party for Bill (who graduated one semester before I did).
5. On 6/14/58, we held my College Graduation party. [See Timeline (#17C)].

We brought several female students from U of M and Eastern Michigan University for study dates there. All 4 residents were serious students and by the end of the first semester, each of us had serious student girlfriends: Bill & Carol, Larry & Judy, Carlos & Andrea and Tom & Ina Rae. In fact, all but Tom ended up marrying these girlfriends. [See Timeline (#17B)].

At the end of the school year (June, 1958), we moved out of our rented house. We sold some of the furnishings (such as the brick bookcase) to the owner of the house and divided the remainder among ourselves. Larry specifically requested to have the **Signi-Fi-Nothing** canoe paddle. I remember thinking that the paddle was so old and frail that I would never see it again. However, it miraculously re-appeared 37 years later! [For details, see *Timeline (#17B)*, *College Friends and Weddings*; Larry Green Disappears for 30 years.]