

Alfred James Peer, Law '21 was born June 4, 1896 in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, the oldest son of Arthur Murry Peer and his wife Madge. The father is enumerated, first, as a landlord (in the 1900 Census) then as a gold miner (in the 1910 census, living in Los Angeles). Interesting childhood for Arthur, who prepped at the Mercersburg Academy, and entered Cornell from Deal Beach, Monmouth County, New Jersey.



Aside from membership in Pi Kappa Alpha and Delta Theta Phi (a professional law fraternity), Al participated in the Boardman Club, the Mercersburg Club, *The Cornell Daily Sun* board, and the *Cornell Era* board, of which he was its photo editor his senior year.

His younger brother, Lyndon Arthur Peer, BA '22 was also a member of the fraternity. Lyndon went on to become a prominent clinical plastic surgeon and one of the nation's foremost medical researchers in reconstructive surgery. Lyndon lived in West Orange, New Jersey, and practiced at the St. Barnabas Hospital in Newark.

Al did not participate in either of the world wars.

After Cornell, he returned to New Jersey, and set up his law practice, Peer & Maher in Newark. Much of the practice focused on insurance litigation, what with Newark being the home base of many companies, starting with Prudential. Peer & Maher evolved into Peer & Ingham.

He lived in Short Hills, with his wife, Mary Meeker, born 1903, and two daughters, Anita, born 1928, and Mary J., born 1932. His practice was apparently a lucrative one, judging from his stated income, home valuation and having a full time butler in the 1940 census. And, when he wasn't into doing billable hours, Al was very active on financial committee posts of the New Jersey State and county Republican committees. In 1947, for example, he mediated an intra-party dispute between the reform and traditionalist factions within the GOP.

Al died on December 7, 1960.