

Their dream became our reality

A look into our past



Founder Dr. C.A. Phillips

"Every Fall and Spring terms, men who have thirty hours of residence work and a grade average of 2.8 are eligible for membership to the Alpha Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi, an honorary professional and educational fraternity," reads the 1951 *Rhetor* (Central Missouri State University's yearbook).

It is easy to see just how much the fraternity has changed.

As Phi Sigma Pi celebrates our eighty-fourth founders' day, February 14, 2000, we begin to realize just how important this organization has become to thousands of brothers.

As a tribute to Phi Sigma Pi's founders, we will be running a series uncovering the history behind the men who founded our fraternity.

We will begin by exploring the many achievements of the late Dr. C. A. Phillips.

Dr. Phillips spent his childhood in Northwestern Johnson County, Missouri. When he was seventeen (17) years old, he moved with his parents to Odessa, Missouri. He was a graduate of the Odessa College in 1892. In 1910, he received his master's degree from the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. from Peabody

College (now Vanderbilt University) in Nashville, Tennessee. He also attended Harvard University. Dr. Phillips taught for three years in a rural school and later became the principal of schools at Dover, Missouri.

Dr. Phillips went on to become the superintendent of schools at Lexington, Missouri, from 1900 to 1906. From there he went to Central Missouri State Teachers College as an instructor of pedagogy. In 1911, he was made head of the department of education, and in 1913 he was elected Dean of the Faculty in which capacity he served for eleven years.

He was made acting president to serve during the absence of President Eldo Hendricks. Dr. Phillips took interest in school work within the state and in 1913, he became the chairman of the State Association Committee on Legislation, where several new educational laws were passed.

Phillips served as president of the State Teachers Association and president of the District Teachers Association. He was also recognized in the educational world for such books as, *History of Education in Missouri*, *A Century of Education in Missouri*, *The Origin and Development of Teacher Training Institutions in Missouri*, *Fundamentals in Elementary Education*, and *Modern Methods and the Elementary Curriculum*.

Several boxes remain in the archives on the campus of Central Missouri State University. These boxes contain artifacts and memorabilia from Phi Sigma Pi's Alpha Chapter.

National representatives and members have had access to them over the years and it is from these various journeys that we have been able to gather additional history regarding our beloved founders and fraternity. ΦΣΠ

