



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association Merry Christmas



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PSE Archives Progress Report

As mentioned in the Spring 2007 PSE Newsletter, a new home for all the donated and saved PSE archival items was being contemplated. It was going to be an expansion to my two-story garage that I presently use for my vehicles and storage, and I was hoping to have it ready by the Homecoming meeting. Well, Homecoming came and all that was completed was the pouring of the concrete foundation footings – but, they were great looking footings. Seriously though, my contractor over-extended himself with a previous job and was really under the gun to complete it, also by Homecoming. Shortly afterward, the new construction work began in earnest with the pouring of the lower level floor slab and laying the concrete block foundation walls to the new ground level.

Until the vertical studded walls and the rafters for the roof go up, any sized expansion always looks smaller than anticipated, and

indeed this did too. However, I could not do anything about making it any larger – I was bound by the City building codes to the exact maximum footprint of my expanded garage. With the walls and roof in place, I eagerly watched the addition of the new floor joists and 3/4" tongue and groove plywood flooring that would give the new PSE annex some definition and appearance. It is at that point that you can see what the new room layout will look like. To bring in some natural light, a double-wide casement window was installed on the north side wall and a single-wide casement window was installed near the entrance stairway from the original garage second-story into the new annex on the south side wall. With the rafters in place, and tied together with the original garage rafters, the new sheathing and roofing shingles were applied. Then the whole exterior was given a rough-sawn cedar reverse batten wood covering, formed

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Actor Brother Reaches Out

In mid-June, I received a package of documents, newspaper articles, pictures and a November 1991 copy of "Starlog" magazine, with a 7-page article about an actor whom I did not recognize by name and knew virtually nothing about. However, after perusing everything that was enclosed and reading the article and the short note with numerous notations that was also enclosed, I began to get a little bit better understanding of what I had received. Since there was no phone number enclosed, I could not call this older Brother to help me understand everything that was enclosed. The packet of material got set aside and regrettably overlooked, as I got caught up in the busy summer travel and grandchildren babysitting schedule.

In mid-October, I received a short note from this older PSE Brother (85), who now resides in Malibu, CA, and enclosed with it was a phone number. It was written on note paper with an Amvets logo on it (the kind you get when a group wants a donation) and said at the top, "From the Desk of William E. Phipps". The only problem is that we did not list anybody by that name in our 1250+ names alumni composite list. Here is the exact content of that note. "Gary: I proudly sport Phi Sig decal on my car window. TKS. I wrote you sometime back and sent you a bunch of 'stuff'. Did you get it? At El, I was Bill Couch – my stepdad's name. There was a film festival there last year & screened many of my films & I was awarded honorary doctorate. I was Prez of freshman class of '39 - put up, pushed, sponsored, etc. - by Phi Sig. All Best. Would like to locate any old Bros. still around. My brother, Jack, was a Phi Sig. Killed in action 1942 So. Pacific. Army pilot. I was in Navy 3 yrs. '42-'45. Bill Phipps". The phone number was also enclosed and you can get all that information in the New Address listings. Recognizing the name and remembering that I had received the aforementioned grouping

of papers from this individual in early Summer, I began trying to relocate that manila envelope of papers. Fortunately, I do keep all of the Phi Sig related materials in one or two common areas and that led me to find it fairly quickly. After reading everything again that I had received, I proceeded to call the phone number that had been listed on the note. Nobody home but the answering machine, which answered "Cowabunga-Ola-Forfavor" along with some semblance of "this is Bill Phipps – not at home at this time – please leave a message". I left a message for him to call me and a number to reach me at. Several weeks went by and one day while at home, I received a call from "Private Caller", as elucidated on my phone caller I.D. Normally, I don't answer a lot of those calls (since they mostly want money for whatever cause), but for some reason I did answer this one and was greeted by the "Cowabunga-Ola-Forfavor" response. It wasn't hard to figure out who this was.

We proceeded to converse like we were old-time buddies who hadn't seen each other for years. Being caught off guard, I didn't get all the information from Bill that I would like to have gotten. He had another obligation and had to go, so I have now written down all my questions in anticipation of the next time we talk, which happened to be today (11-29-07). But, here is what I did glean from our conversation that explains much of the confusion emanating from the original packet of material sent to me.

Up until hearing from Bill, we had been sending PSE Newsletters to a William E. Couch, in Malibu, CA and they were being received by him, because they weren't being sent back to us for any number of reasons. We showed no William E. Phipps in the composite of names and addresses. It turns out that he was born with the surname of Phipps, but upon coming to Eastern, chose to call himself William E. Couch, under the presumption that he and a

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E-mail Addresses

James A. Thomas - jthomas@susd.org
Ronald D. Grissom - rdgrissom@sbcglobal.net
John R. Tate - tatesk8@aim.com
Robert J. Bass - rjcbass@aol.com
Daniel F. Hickey - d.hick@comcast.net
Richard A. Elke - relke@comcast.net
Sanford P. Blovad - sandyb60@aol.com
Kenneth J. Dennison - spider.one@sbcglobal.net
John R. Jones - jrj1931@cox.net
Walley S. Kos - wskkos@hotmail.com
Stephen A. Daughhetee - steve@stevedsellshomes.com
James A. Paszalek - jp18@tds.net

Progress Report

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from 4 x 9 foot sheets of plywood to match the existing garage exterior skin. The original exterior rear wall of my garage actually is now the prominent wall in the PSE annex and the other new interior walls will receive the same matching plywood treatment. An initial coating of primer paint was applied just before Thanksgiving, while the outside weather was still very Fall-like, and a finish coat will be applied next Spring. With the completion of the main construction, the electrician was called in to wire all of the new construction for lighting and outlets, prior to the installation of insulation and interior wall sur-



Brother Reaches Out

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brother, Jack A. Couch, had been properly adopted by his stepfather. That, it was later revealed, was not the case, but while he and Jack were in school at Eastern and while they were Phi Sigs, they both went by the surname of Couch. That explains why we had them listed under that surname and indeed Jack is deceased (more on that story in PSE Tidbits).

Bill was born February 4, 1922, in Vincennes, IN, but was brought up in St. Francisville, IL, a small community south of Vincennes, right on the Wabash River. He enrolled at Eastern, starting classes there in 1939, and with support from Phi Sigma Epsilon, was nominated as President of the Freshman class. After pledging Phi Sig and going active, he lived at the Phi Sig House (fourth PSE House), located at 1431 Ninth Street (the house is still there). He writes "I slept on the 3rd floor of the old frat house and no heat". Besides being the class president, Bill was assisting Paul Graham (another Phi Sig) as cheer leader, was a reporter for the News (Eastern), proclaimed dancing as his hobby and majored in commerce (Business Accounting) while in school. He left school in 1941 to hitchhike his way to Hollywood, CA, where he hoped to fulfill his lifetime ambition of being an actor. With the advent of the Second World War, Bill served in the Navy from 1942-1945.

After the war, Bill once again made his way to Hollywood and began both stage and film roles before getting his first acting break in the RKO film "Crossfire" in 1947. For the next 50 years, his career

Brothers Eternal

The Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association is once again saddened to report to you the death of a number of Brothers of the Heart from over the years. Let us however, take solace in the fact that we are better for having known them.

E. Glendon Gabbard

Edward W. Hartweger

facing. So, now I have two new 12 x 24 foot rooms, the lower one being used for large storage items from my vehicle garage and above it, the new PSE Annex for archival storage and display. The first picture shows the original garage and the exterior framing for the addition, as well as the second-story level (PSE Annex), while the second picture shows a little bit of the annex interior looking north at the wall that now houses the double-wide casement window. My winter project is to now get the insulation and interior wall treatments done in anticipation of the February PSE Board meeting.

The Spring 2008 PSE Newsletter will highlight the new archival display room with all the accumulated treasures from the past that we can relate to or remember from our days in or at the PSE fraternity houses(s). Getting the construction to this point has meant a lot of anticipatory excitement, but the real fun will begin when I can start bringing all the PSE memorabilia together in a common area, where it can be properly displayed.



and credits spanned everything from stage to film to TV to commercials to voiceover work (he narrated the 190 minute TV version of Dune). However, according to Bill personally over the phone, the role he is most famous for, is that of the voice of the original Prince Charming in the Walt Disney classic "Cinderella" in 1950. He stated that in this age of the internet and instant information, he still receives more fan mail from those ingratiated with the film than from anything else he has done. Bill was prominent in a lot of the '50's science fiction movies, such as "War of the Worlds" and "Invaders from Mars" and played the role of Teddy Roosevelt in the Emmy award-winning mini-series, Eleanor and Franklin, which won 11 Emmys. Some of his other film credits include "Julius Caesar", "Lust for Life", "Executive Suite" and "They Live by Night". And if you want to know more of his roles on the big screen and the smaller TV screen, where he had roles in "Gunsmoke", "Perry Mason", "Batman", "The Twilight Zone" and "The Waltons" among many others, you can Google his name and get all the information you want. The original packet of information received from Bill will be on display in the new Phi Sig Annex when it is completed.

Bill is now retired from acting and lives in the Malibu, CA, area, where he was supposed to be mandatorily evacuated from the area during the huge fires of October. He indicated by phone that he chose not to evacuate and was fortunate to not suffer any damages. He is divorced and has one daughter living nearby, who works for Hewlett-Packard, and also has two grandchildren. He would love to hear from any of his old Phi Sig buddies from college. His address and phone number are listed in the New Addresses.

Website Update

With this Newsletter, you should again be able to access the Newsletter on the PSE website at www.PhiSigDelta.com. Anyone that we have an email address for, will be contacted by Tom Swanson to be informed that they can access that Newsletter by email instead of being mailed a hard copy.

PSE Tidbits

This year marks the 65th anniversary of one of the most famous naval and aircraft battles of World War II. It is today called the Battle of the Coral Sea and took place in the eastern Pacific theater, primarily during the first week of May 1942. It was during this battle or shortly thereafter, that the only member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity at EIU was killed in action in World War II.

Jack A. Couch (born surname Phipps) was the real brother of actor William Edward Phipps, the subject of an extensive article in this Newsletter. As explained in that article, he took the "Couch" name from a stepfather. He was born on July 2, 1920, also in Vincennes, IN, and called St. Francisville, IL, his home. He started school at Eastern in 1938, pledged and went active with Phi Sigma Epsilon and left school in 1940 to join the Army Air Force (predecessor to current Air Force) when the European and Far East wars were already going strong.

Not much is known about the details surrounding his death. An Eastern Illinois State College Bulletin entitled "Eastern Illinois State College - Fifty Years of Public Service" that is dated Jan. 1, 1950, states that Jack was killed in action on May 15, 1942, in the Far Eastern theater of war. At this time, we remember and honor his sacrifice for our freedom.

Another actor with ties to Phi Sigma Epsilon has made it to his so-called 15 minutes of fame, only in this case it is a nationwide weekly, half-hour show called "Frank TV". The star is Frank Caliendo, son of our own Frank Caliendo (late '60's), who now lives in Waukesha, WI. You may have seen younger Frank previously doing his famous John Madden impersonations on the Comedy Channel - he is dead-on with that one and has many more, as divulged on his weekly show. His show presently is shown on TBS at 10 PM on Tuesday evenings. If you want a good chuckle before turning in for the night, do not miss this show.

At the Phi Sig Open golf outing that was held on June 2, 2007, at the Railside Country Club in Gibson City, IL, there was a paltry showing of only 11 duffers - and this was on a beautiful day. We advertised it ahead of time, sent out notices to area Phi Sigs and kept the weather good for the outing. Gene Everett graciously hosted a Saturday morning pre-golf breakfast and allowed several Brothers to avail themselves of overnight accommodations at his home. After the 18 holes of golf and a couple of liquid refreshments in the clubhouse bar, the group packed up and headed to Dick Swing's lakeside home in Loda, IL, for an after-golf barbecue dinner. Barb Dubrick (Swinger's fiancé) outdid herself on all the different salads and entrees, but the real coup de grace was the large, hand-decorated sheet cake with an exacting, full-colored replica in icing of the Phi Sig crest, which she copied from a downloaded image sent to her. Thank you all for your efforts. To see if we can attract a larger golf group, we are switching the Phi Sig Open to the Chicago area next year, specifically the south side area and about the same time slot as the outing this year. Tom Swanson, aka Swanee, of Grant Park, is in charge of preparations for the Spring outing, so mentally and physically pencil in a notice of that event. There will be more information in the Spring 2008 Newsletter.

Information in the Fall 2006 Newsletter about several obituary names and the story of a bookcase that was donated to memorialize the death of a Phi Sig, John M. Alter, prompted Wayne Baker ('60) of Maryville, IL, to write a letter to me explaining many facets of life about his best friend, John M. Alter. John died of a malignant brain tumor in September, 1955, as a student and Phi Sig at Eastern Illinois University. Wayne relayed one particular light-hearted tale that I will relay in his own writing to you. It starts "In August of 1952, John Alter, John Willingham, a boy named Bill Petty, and I took a trip through the Northeast in an old wooden-bodied 1940 Ford station wagon, and therein lies the tale of how three future Phi Sigs and a Phi Sig alumnus came together to change life in Charleston forever". Wayne goes on to state that their second stop was in Dearborn, MI, to visit Bob Alter and family (John's brother) and that for several days they would drive into Detroit seeking some adventure. In his own words again, Wayne relays "So when one afternoon we went walking up Woodward Avenue and saw a chef preparing an interesting dish in a restaurant window, we had no

idea what we were looking at. It smelled wonderful, however, so we went inside and ordered it. It proved to be almost magically delicious. When we returned to Charleston from our trip, that was the thing that we talked about most. All our friends were most interested, and pressed us to get a recipe, so we pressed John to write to Bob's wife to find one - which he did, and which she did. John's mother, Edith, a professor at Eastern, studied the recipe and announced that she could follow it. About a dozen of us gathered at the Alter house one weekend afternoon in October. The result was most gratifyingly tasty, and all our friends swore that our tales had in no way been exaggerations. And so it was that those of us lucky enough to be there that lovely autumn day in 1952 were the ones to savor the very first pizzas ever prepared in Charleston". Wayne continues on with his letter about other subject matter, but to accede to brevity, it must be left to another time and place. The letter also contained some old pictures and Warbler xerox copies from the past. Thanks Wayne! Into the PSE Archives they will go.

In anticipation of the new Phi Sig Annex becoming a reality sooner than later, the PSE Alumni Assn. Board of Directors (quorum present) voted at the annual Homecoming meeting to expend the funds necessary to properly preserve and protect the original old, large, pounded-metal Phi Sigma Epsilon coat-of-arms that used to hang in the living room of the House. This would involve a thorough cleaning and custom framing with a glass cover to keep it protected. Again, Barb Dubrick (Dick Swing's fiancé) volunteered her services to do that, as she apparently does that kind of work on the side, above and beyond her regular employment. She and Dick took that coat-of-arms home with them after the Homecoming weekend was over and looked at original pictures of what it looked like when it was in the fraternity house. We should have it back in time for the scheduled February 2008 PSE Alumni Assn. meeting at my home.

Once again we have received some more long-saved PSE memorabilia, that represent many memories from the past of your years at Eastern Illinois University as a part of Phi Sigma Epsilon. Both of these donations come from members of the PSE Board of Directors, and unless I miss my guess, they are probably not going to be happy that I took the room in this publication to make mention of that fact. Well, so be it! The first donation came from Tom Swanson (Swanee '72), who lives in Grant Park, IL. He is the man responsible for maintaining the PSE Address Composite List. Swanee still had the blanket-sized white towel with the large, red outlined PSE crest and the block wording "Spring Formal '71", and it still looked pretty good. Probably didn't get any daily use. Also given to us was an old program from the White Tea Rose Formal held on May 13, 1972, at the Holiday Inn in Champaign, IL. Those are generally pretty rare, since we usually didn't get invited back for a second year and most of them probably got tossed after a few years. Finally, we received from Tom, two articles of clothing, one an original, hooded, navy-blue with white crest, pullover sweatshirt with a full-width front pocket and the second a heavy white T-shirt with a full-color crest on it, a red neck-band and two red arm-bands off the shoulder. Above the crest in an arc is black-lettered "Phi Sigma Epsilon" and below the crest are the black initials T.S.M.F., while on the back are large, block numbers "00" in black color. I remember seeing pictures of these, and I think they were intramural football jerseys. Of course, we all know that the TSMF refers to "Together Stands My Fraternity" or something like that! The other donation came from Boone Chaney ('73), who lives in Charleston, IL. Boone has been finding items from time to time and getting them to me, the last item being an original PSE cane. You would think we should have lots of those, since it represented such an important time in our lives, but his is the only one we have on hand. Also forthcoming from Boone were several small items, a silver PSE keychain, a red, rectangular PSE plastic keychain, a Greek-lettered, carved-wood desk block of PSE and a pair of the warmest socks in the world, with red and gray bands near the top and the Greek letters for PSE vertically stacked. I know they're warm, because I had a couple of pairs myself - must be a good mix of fabrics. Thanks Swanee and Boone!

PSE Seventeenth Annual Student Awards

You've probably heard the old adage, "Suppose they gave a war and nobody came", inferring the lack of interest or commitment for a particular endeavor. Well, the PSE Alumni Assn. equivalent of that almost happened this year with the annual Student Awards. It appears that we may be getting close to the end of the road for new students who are the progeny of former Phi Sigs at Eastern.

From the information block printed on the back page of the Spring 2007 Newsletter, that is to be submitted to the PSE Alumni Assn. for verification, we only received two responses for the 2007/2008 school year for financial assistance. And one of those was for a student who was finishing up his student teaching obligation prior to an anticipated December, 2007, EIU graduation.



Student Awards recipients Ross Laux and Danielle Hickey.

On Sunday, August 19, 2007, the P.S.E. Alumni Assn. held its annual presentation of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. Student Awards. These are the monetary disbursements that are made each year to those students who qualify. On a warm and sunny weekend day prior to the beginning of classes, with only 8 people in atten-

dance (4 of whom were PSE Board related), the traditional luncheon was held at noon, followed by the abbreviated presentation of the Awards. This year, a first-year check for \$500 dollars was presented to incoming freshman Danielle Hickey, who goes by the nickname "Lita", and a \$250 dollar check was presented to Ross Laux, a third-year recipient, who will graduate from Eastern in December after doing his student teaching at Villa Grove, IL. "Lita" is the daughter of Dan and Christine Hickey of Lake in the Hills, Illinois, who were here for the presentation, while Ross is the son of Austin and Margaret Opp of Bethalto, Illinois, who could not attend for personal reasons.

As in the past, there was again too much of the catered luncheon entrees to finish in one sitting, but unlike the past, we were able to distribute all the leftovers to the students and PSE Board members. Pictures were taken to capture the awards occasion and following some casual chit-chat and light-hearted bantering, the group went their own ways.

With the above-noted financial distributions, the PSE Alumni Assn. has now exceeded \$46,000 dollars of interest-generated monies that have been awarded to students who are children of former Phi Sigs at Eastern Illinois University.

New Addresses

Dan L. Endsley – 6335 W. Honeysuckle Dr., Glendale, AZ 85310
(623) 243-6556

Walter Richards Jr. – 5034 New Forest St. - Apt. 7304,
San Antonio, TX 78229

Robert E. Stuckey – 2427 Pro Tour Dr., Belleville, IL 62220

Sanford J. Blovad – 7741 Royale River Ln., Lake Worth, FL 33467
(561) 964-0077

William E. Phipps – P.O. Box 6036, Malibu, CA 90264
(310) 457-6088

Stephen A. Daughhetee – 1929 N. Longridge Pl., Eagle, ID 83616
(208) 939-6289

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