

# Founder's Day - 2009

## Abilene, Kansas

This Founder's Day was a special one in Abilene, Kansas. Abilene was as many of you know, the birthplace of Beta Sigma Phi. But this year was even more special than the ones that marked momentous anniversaries. Because now there stands a lasting memorial to Beta Sigma Phi that all who visit the town's historical museum will see.

The ambitious project had its genesis several months prior, when member Louise Frey of **Kansas Alpha Master, Abilene** arrived at International with a notebook full of ideas, a list of things that we could retrieve from our archives, and her husband J.M. along to do any heavy lifting. Her enthusiasm was infectious and we were excited as she was. Louise had been donated, after many sweet inquiries to the business community of Abilene, an exquisite large display case, where she envisioned the story of Beta Sigma Phi being preserved under glass for future generations.

Upon arriving at the historical museum in Abilene, it was rewarding to see almost all members in Abilene present. Everyone chatted and treated themselves to cookies and punch, anxious for the unveiling of the archival display case. The display case turned out to be fabulous, a true testament to sorority that outlined the amazing story of our sisterhood.

But also on the agenda was the appearance of the special guest, whose identity up until her arrival had been kept a secret. Everyone was very pleasantly surprised when the guest of honor turned out to be none other than Alpha Master member Helen Pepper, the very first member of Beta Sigma Phi. When Helen spoke in her soft voice, you could hear a pin drop in the room as the members listened intently as she spoke. She became emotional as she recalled how much Beta Sigma Phi had meant to her through the years, and thanked Walter W. Ross for seeing his dream come to fruition.

All the sisters were thrilled with her presence, recognizing that every member has upheld Helen's legacy. Helen is truly one of the greatest gifts that sorority has ever known. Thank you Helen, for being an such an example of Beta Sigma Phi at its finest, you truly showcase the Good, the True and the Beautiful.

