This collection consists of an invitation to a pledging ceremony in Neosho, Missouri, a membership application, and programs for “Founder’s Day” observances in Joplin, Missouri, and Neosho, Missouri, for Beta Sigma Phi, a non-academic sorority based in Kansas City, Missouri.

Beta Sigma Phi was established as a “non-academic sorority” in Abilene, Kansas, in 1931. Its local chapters promote friendship and service among the international membership.

The first item in this collection is an invitation to a “Formal Pledging Service and Reception” hosted by Missouri Beta Phi Chapter at the Community Building in Neosho in Newton County, Missouri, on Tuesday evening, 1 June 1943.

The second item, a blank membership form, pledges the applicant to pay an initiation fee and annual dues, and to “uphold the honor and standards of Beta Sigma Phi.” Printer’s marks indicate that the application was printed in December 1943.

The third item is a small booklet for the “13th Founder’s Day Program” held at Joplin in Jasper County, Missouri, on 30 April 1944. The “Hostess Chapter” for the event, which was held in the banquet room of “Roberts,” was Missouri Beta Sigma. The evening included a dinner, rituals, and an installation ceremony. The booklet also includes “The Creed of the Beta Sigma Phi” and lyrics to “Song of Victory” by Delma Lee Brazier, which won first prize in the sorority’s song contest for 1944.

The fourth and last item is a small booklet for the “Fifteenth Founder’s Day Program” held at the Big Spring Inn in Neosho on 30 April 1946. Included are the “Program,” the lyrics to “The Road We Take” (the sorority’s prize-winning song for 1946 by Eunice Snyder and Ruth Gumeson of Colorado), and “The Invisible Border,” a poem by Jean Story of Vancouver, B.C.


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