

Frederick Scheuch (1871-1954)



University of Montana professor and founder of Missoula's fraternity of Sigma Chi. He was considered the "Father of Sigma Chi in the West" as he established the undergraduate program in five western states in the early 1900s. His wise and compassionate counsel led many young men to be successful leaders in business.

- **1871-Birth.** Frederick was born in 1871 in Lafayette, Indiana. He grew up in Spain where his father served as a U.S. Consulate.
- **Marriage.** Mr. and Mrs. Scheuch had one daughter, Natalie.
- **Education.** Frederick returned to the United States to attend Purdue. When he started at Purdue he could barely speak English and employed a translator until his skill of the language improved.
- **1892.** Scheuch served as Purdue's undergraduate delegate to the Grand Chapter in Indianapolis where he was also appointed Kustos of his local chapter. At that time, the structure of the Fraternity was different, and such appointments were made at Grand Chapter.
- Throughout Scheuch's lifetime, he attended 12 Grand Chapters. Before going west to Montana, he was Grand Praetor of the then-fourth Province in Indiana.
- **1895.** Arrived in Missoula to teach French, German and Spanish. Here he served as the Grand Praetor of what was then called the 17th Province. According to Scheuch there were only four Sigma Chis living in Montana- all of them on the staff of the university. There were no undergraduate chapters at the University of Montana. The nearest undergraduate chapters were 1200 miles to the west at Washington and 700 miles to the east at Minnesota.
- **1930's.** By the time Scheuch retired, he had actively worked on the establishment of the undergraduate chapters at the University of Montana and Montana State. After the establishment of the chapter at the University of Montana. Scheuch spent most of his free time in the chapter house. He often held court with students in the kitchen. He offered a cup of coffee and advice to all who sought his counsel.
- In addition to Scheuch's Sigma Chi efforts in Montana, he also guided the establishment of additional chapters in the states of Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Washington.
- During his career in Montana, Frederick served as interim university president on five separate occasions. When asked to assume the position permanently, he refused saying it would take him away from his daily contact with his students.
- **1939.** In August, during the 44th Grand Chapter in Los Angeles, the Sigma Chi membership chose Scheuch to serve as 30th Grand Counsel.
- **1948.** Frederick was among the first group of Sigma Chis to be inducted into the Order of Constantine, the Fraternity's highest honor.
- **1954-Death.** Frederick died on January 17, 1954 in Los Angeles CA after a long illness.
- **Fall of 1954.** Dedication of the Scheuch Memorial Planetarium took place on the campus of Montana State University, which is now the University of Montana, Missoula.



