



First Treasurer

Mildred Hunt, Bartlesville chapter

Two bits. That's all it took to join the Jane Phillips Sorority Credit Union in April 1939. A single quarter would open a savings account and allow unsecured loans up to \$50. To receive a loan, a Credit Union member had to make regular deposits to her share account, as little as fifty cents, while keeping up loan payments.

The JPS Credit Union was organized to provide a place for sorority members to save money and to borrow money at a lower rate of interest than the banks. The JPSers received the Organization Certification for the Jane Phillips Sorority Federal Credit Union in January 1939 and opened its doors for business in April 1939. By the following June, the Credit Union had a total of 137 members with saving of \$425.

The first treasurer, Mildred Hunt, operated from her desk in the pipeline department on the fourth floor of the Frank Phillips Building. In 1941, Phillips provided an office for the Credit Union's activities in the old First National Bank Building.

A Credit Union is defined by Public Act 467 of the 73rd Congress as "a means to establish a further market for securities of the United States and to make more available to people of small means credit for provident purposes through a national system of cooperative credit, thereby helping to stabilize the credit structure of the United States." By starting on a shoestring, JPS' idea of helping their members has grown to today's organization in downtown Bartlesville.

Although originally established for JPS members, the Credit Union was opened to all Bartlesville Phillips employees in 1940. In July 1941, the name was changed to the 66 Federal Credit Union. As more non-JPS members joined the Credit Union, the Board of Directors gradually passed from JPS control. Many ConocoPhillips field offices now have credit unions, each operating independently of the other.

In 2013, 66 Federal Credit changed its name to Truity Credit Union. It operates branches in both the Houston and Bartlesville markets.

Credit Union members no longer pay a membership fee but are required to maintain a minimum balance of \$25 in share accounts. The rate of interest on loans has increased from the original 1 percent. Originally starting with only a volunteer staff, Truity Credit Union today employs many people and owns its office building at Fifth and Johnstone streets.