

PHIL L. AXLING

EDUCATION



Phil L. Axling had been Deaf since the age of 7. He was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1870. His family moved from New York to Union County, SD. At 11 years old, he attended South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls, SD. At the time, the school was called the Dakota Territory School for the Deaf and the Mute and he was their 8th pupil. The school was officially renamed to South Dakota School for the Deaf when South Dakota became a state in 1889. He was one of the very first graduates in 1890.

Seven years after graduation, he went to work as a foreman at the Grant County Review Shop in Milbank, SD. He later became an instructor at the North Dakota State School for the Deaf where he established a print shop and helped found the school newspaper. He returned to South Dakota School for the Deaf where he became chief instructor, taught printing and became the editor of the school paper. Phil worked in a variety of printing and editing jobs until in 1944 when he became the owner of a company called Art Printing Co. in Spokane, Washington. He owned this business until the age of eighty-one. He had been working as a printer and/or magazine editor for 63 years. Phil was the lead instructor for publishing the first five volumes of 'Dakota Advocate 1885-1891'. He also wrote 'The History of South Dakota School for the Deaf', which is a highly valuable piece in SDAD's history preservation.

One of the most notable achievements was his time and service as The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Vice-President serving under George Veditz as the NAD president.

In 1958, Axling passed away in Lynden, Washington. Because all of his amazing accomplishments there are road signs on corners in Lynden named in honor of Phil L. Axling.

