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Notes on the Building of the Footbridge

Fort Hays Kansas State College

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moved back to the Hays public schools, and grades one to six remained on the campus. All directed, or student, teaching was transferred to the public schools on September 1, 1939.

Campus and Buildings

Although no appropriations for buildings were made during this period, there were some interesting developments of great value to the college physical plant. These improvements were made possible by co-operation with various federal agencies. Among the agencies working on the campus were the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Civil Works Administration, the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee, Public Works Administration, Works Progress Administration, and the National Youth Administration.

It would be difficult in every case to say who did what, because of overlapping in both labor and funds. Insofar as lines are clearly defined, credit is given to the agency responsible for the developments.

In 1933 and 1934 the Civilian Conservation Corps built on the college land known as the Golden Belt Fair Grounds two barracks to supplement buildings already there for housing 200 men in that camp. These buildings became the property of the college.

The old wooden bridge, the "spoon holder" (a popular trysting place), connecting the campus proper to the Custer Hall dormitory area, was replaced in 1933 by a new steel bridge in co-operation with the KEREC. The creek banks near Custer Hall and the Coliseum were cleared of brush and debris, landscaped and riprapped, and a boat landing built near the bridge. The value of this project was estimated at \$10,000.

In 1933 and 1934 a small house was built at the back of the campus to provide a residence for students employed as nightwatchmen and campus workers. This was another KEREC project and was valued at \$2,000.

On May 29, 1936, the Board of Regents issued this order:

The portion of the campus of the Fort Hays Kansas State College east of the creek, and bordering on the Kansas Frontier Historical Park, consisting of an area of approximately twenty-five and one-half acres, formerly occupied by the Golden Belt Fair Association, is hereafter designated and known as Lewis Field, in honor of the late President William Alexander Lewis.

On the same date the board granted authority to the College to construct the Lewis Field stadium as a Works Progress Administration project. The WPA paid for the labor and some of the materials, and the rest of the material was purchased through a newly