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Heather Hall Dedication Speech

Fort Hays State University

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Heather Hall is being dedicated today in honor of Mr. Jack R. Heather, director of Radio, Television, and Film, at Fort Hays State University since 1950. Jack pioneered the radio and television broadcasting curriculums and programs at the University. It is because of Jack Heather's devotion to his students, his leadership, ingenuity and his loyalty to Fort Hays State University that this building is named Heather Hall.

Jack R. Heather was born in Lordsburg, New Mexico, and reared in El Paso, Texas. He graduated from El Paso High School, then joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He served in the China-Burma-India field of operations in 1944 and was an armament specialist in China with the 14th Army Air Force "Flying Tigers." He began his announcing career with the armed forces in 1945 and in January of 1946 entered the University of Texas at El Paso (then College of Mines and Metallurgy) to study broadcasting and business. He was graduated from UTEP in 1949 and then pursued graduate studies at the University of Denver. He completed his academic work on his master's degree at UD in 1950 and was hired immediately to develop the fledgling radio curriculum and program at Fort Hays State University. The master's was conferred in 1955 upon completion of his research into establishing a radio department in small state-supported colleges.

When Jack accepted the responsibility to expand the radio offerings at FHSU, he inherited only a homemade control board, two turntables, a record disc cutter, a remote pickup amplifier and Brush tape recorder that utilized paper-backed tapes. Additionally, only two radio courses were being offered to students.

Hundreds of changes in the operation have taken place under Jack's direction over the past 36 years. The area was broadened in the late 1950's to include the teaching of television broadcasting and programming and area TV stations were utilized for use by students. Through the years the teaching curriculum has expanded greatly. Closed circuit television programming was initiated, more and better equipment added, and new classified and unclassified personnel came on board to help absorb the demands on the area by both students and faculty.

Jack Heather firmly believes that the area of Radio-TV-Film serves the faculty and students of Fort Hays State University, the community of Hays and the broadcasting industry. "But more importantly," he said, "it serves students of broadcasting with a practical background in small and medium market station operation and a sense of professionalism through actually performing the many jobs found in broadcasting." Heather's students have interned in large and small radio and television markets since 1970 and his graduates are employed in markets throughout Kansas and the midwest.

Jack Heather's family includes wife Margaret, daughters Mrs. Brooke Heather Blashock, Mrs. Dawn Heather Englert, Mrs. Nora Weber, Mrs. Betsy Poling, Mrs. Linda Walz, son Stan Smith, and 13 grandchildren.

Dedication

Saturday, October 11, 1986

8:30 a.m.

*Dr. Murphy -
Bob Lowen
brought this
in for you*

1993-08-02

10:00

1993-08-02