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"Campus and Buildings"

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 KERC. 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 KERC 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

formed corporation, the Fort Hays Physical Education Association, which issued bonds in the amount of \$20,000, and leased the housing facilities on Lewis Field, the income from which repaid the bonded indebtedness.

It was planned to build a dormitory under the stadium, and to secure ideas for such a project President Rarick and R. U. Brooks, the college superintendent of buildings, visited the Huey Long stadium-housing project at Louisiana State University. This idea was a brain-child of President Rarick's, and Mr. Brooks drew the general building plans. Construction was begun in November, 1935, and in September, 1937, seventy-five men moved into this dormitory. The *Reveille* for 1937 states:

A dream has almost come true. Next fall the eastern half of the new Lewis Field stadium will be completed, replete with living quarters . . . a wall around the field, track for field events, glass-enclosed press box, and seats for 3,500. Work has begun on the western half, and when completed (both sides) will seat 7,000.

This construction was valued at \$175,000.

The Public Works Administration was responsible for an addition to the south side of Cody Commons main dining room in 1936. A basement for storage purposes was constructed under a portion of this addition, and the storage space within the cafeteria was expanded by the addition of shelves, cabinets and lockers. At this time the college installed three walk-in refrigeration units in the Commons. This addition was valued at \$23,000.

New roofs were put on Cody Commons, Picken Hall and the Coliseum, replacing roofs that were twenty to thirty years old and in bad condition. With a new roof on the building it was practical to install many new ceilings in Picken Hall. New flooring was laid in the Social Building and on two levels of Picken Hall. Picken and the Industrial Building were rewired and new electrical fixtures added. Weather stripping was done at the Coliseum, Cody Commons and Science Hall. Openings in several of the buildings were repaired and painted, and many classrooms received paint and minor repairs. These repairs were valued at \$15,000.

Two additions were made to the Industrial Arts building, one on the south side to provide additional space for the Industrial Arts department, and one on the north side to house the pottery kiln. These additions were valued at \$3,000.

A \$6,000 campus shop and storage building of frame and stucco construction to house the maintenance shops, trucks and cars was completed with the co-operation of the federal government.