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### Clarence Edmund Rarick

Fort Hays State University

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CLARENCE EDMUND RARICK

TO PRESIDENT C. E. RARICK, FORT HAYS STATE WAS THE EDUCATIONAL "Lighthouse" FOR THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN KANSAS, AND IT STILL IS.

TO THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN KANSAS, DR. RARICK WAS THE BISHOP OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR FORTY (40) YEARS AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS WERE ENORMOUS. SOME OF HIS POSITIONS REVEAL THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION:

RURAL SCHOOL TEACHER

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AT: PLAINVILLE, STOCKTON, OSBORNE

FACULTY MEMBER OF FORT HAYS STATE FROM 1919 TO 1941

PRESIDENT OF FORT HAYS STATE 1934 TO 1941

DR. RARICK'S FATHER WAS OF WELCH EXTRACTION AND HIS MOTHER OF IRISH BACKGROUND. PRESIDENT RARICK, INHERITING THE WIT AND WISDOM OF HIS ANCESTRY, AND WITH A SENSE OF CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE FINE-TUNED TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE HOUR, BROUGHT THIS TALENT TO THE EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES OF KANSAS.

HE WAS PROBABLY THE MOST WIDELY KNOWN KANSAN IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION DURING THE 1920'S AND 1930'S. HE WAS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SPEAKER IN GREAT DEMAND BY CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS.

THE TIMES WERE HARD WHEN DR. RARICK BECAME PRESIDENT OF FORT HAYS STATE COLLEGE IN 1933, FIRST AS ACTING PRESIDENT ON OCTOBER 28, AND AS PRESIDENT A YEAR LATER ON NOVEMBER 30, 1934. THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE LAND, WERE SUFFERING FROM CROP FAILURES, DROUGHT, FINANCIAL DEPRESSION, INTERNATIONAL UNREST AND INCIPIENT WARS.

TO THIS POSITION OF PRESIDENT, DR. RARICK CAME WELL-EQUIPPED AND WITH THE COURAGE OF TEN MEN. THROUGH HIS VALIANT EFFORTS TO HELP STUDENTS GET AN EDUCATION, AND HIS DETERMINED MISSION OF KEEPING FORT HAYS STATE AFLOAT WHEN SURVIVAL WAS IN DOUBT, THIS GREAT MAN AND GREAT PRESIDENT OF THIS INSTITUTION HAS EARNED A PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF KANSAS.

WE ARE FORTUNATE, INDEED, TO HAVE WITH US TODAY TWO OF THE CHILDREN OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. RARICK -- DR. LAWRENCE RARICK AND MRS. LOIS RARICK COOKE.

THE 1930'S CONSTITUTED A DECADE OF DOUBT. THUS WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT FOR SUCH A TIME CAME CLARENCE EDMUND RARICK AND, AS A DEDICATED SHEPHERD, ADMINISTERED THE COLLEGE WITH A FLAIR THAT WAS SOLID AND SOUND, MODERN AND MAGNIFICENT.

THIS BEAUTIFUL BUILDING, LIKE ITS FAMOUS NAMESAKE, IS SOLID AND SOUND, MODERN AND MAGNIFICENT, AND CARRIES OUT DR. RARICK'S SPIRIT OF MISSION AND LABOR OF LOVE.

THEREFORE, I THINK THAT IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE TODAY HONOR HIS MEMORY, WHICH HAS NOT AND SHALL NOT DIM SO LONG AS FORT HAYS STATE EXISTS.