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Sheridan Coliseum: Newsletter, Fund drive update

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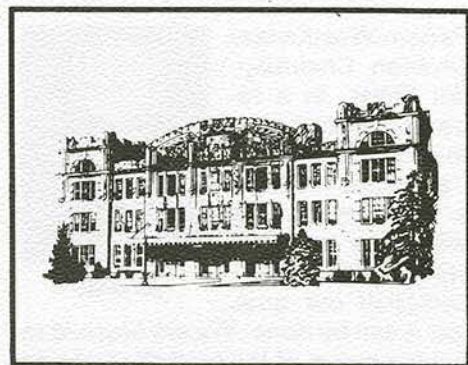
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FHSU-SHERIDAN COLISEUM CAMPAIGN

fund drive update



Campaign Council Dinner Very Successful

A gymnasium was just a dream for Fort Hays Normal School 70 years ago when Clair Wilson sawed limestone into pieces used to build Sheridan Coliseum.

Wilson, a retired dentist living in Hays, was one of the 180 people who attended a candlelight dinner March 28 in the coliseum, who have dreams now of turning Sheridan into a cultural center for Western Kansas.

"I have many fond memories of this building," Wilson said after the dinner. "I'd hate to see it go." Mr. Wilson expressed the feelings of all those in attendance that night.



Head Table and Guests

To keep it from being torn down, Fort Hays State University officials say they must raise \$2 million to renovate the building. Another \$4 million will come from the State Legislature if the \$2 million drive is successful. The monies will be used to renovate Sheridan into a 1,200 seat performing arts center and to centrally locate all the student services.

Although \$338,406 had been raised by March 28, the dinner also served as the official kick-off of the Pattern/WestKansas Division, the first of three public divisions in the campaign.

The fund drive is being managed by Bill Doyle for Community Service Bureau, a Dallas-based professional fund raising organization.

During the fund drive, organized volunteer committees will solicit contributions and pledges from various groups: the faculty, staff, and the Endowment Association of the University, residents of the Hays area, and others from many West Kansas cities.

At the Campaign Dinner, Norbert Dreiling, a Hays

attorney and a co-chairman of the fund drive, told those who will solicit funds not to be put off by the economic arguments against the drive. "Whether this building will come down or whether it is renovated rests in our hands." He told fund raisers they will face "hard economic arguments" against financing the project, including problems in the farm economy and the closing of the Baxter Travenol plant. "WestKansas is still a prosperous and affluent area," Dreiling said, "In Hays, we're building on every available spot along Vine Street."

In addition to Dreiling, other fund drive and University officials spoke at the dinner. Robert E. Schmidt, President of KAYS, Inc., and a co-chairman of the fund drive, officiated as Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Gerald Tomanek, President of FHSU, led everyone through a history of the coliseum with a slide presentation made especially to be shown at the dinner.

Before dinner was served, the FHSU Orchestra performed for the guests, and during dinner everyone enjoyed Byrnell Figler at the piano. The menu for the dinner included Coquille St. Jacques (a scallop dish with cheese), Caesar salad, Beef Wellington, Herbed potatoes, Peas Françoise, and Cherries Jubilee. Sheridan Bread, a cinnamon bread with maraschino cherries, was introduced and served for the first time.

During dinner you could overhear people talking about their favorite memories in the coliseum—concerts, speakers, basketball games, the duck pond, and other memories.

"When I walked into this place back in 1938, I thought it was the biggest place in the world," said Bill Jellison, Vice President for student affairs. "At the basketball court I played on in Sylvan Grove, the jump-shot circles overlapped!"

Clair Wilson, who made 30 cents an hour while cutting limestone for the coliseum during his first summer out of high school, said he can already stake a claim on the building. At the end of the summer of work, he said the subcontractor he worked for left without paying him \$90 in wages.



Bob Schmidt



Norbert Dreiling

Although We Have A Good Start . . .

Pattern/WestKansas Division Chairman, Bill Miller, in a recent discussion mentioned that "although we have a good start, we will have to work really hard to accomplish our goal, but it can be done. We are blessed to have a group of talented Workers on our team." Miller added, "We know it won't be easy, but nothing worthwhile comes easy." He went on to



Bill Miller

say, "We really want to thank those leaders who have come forward to help FHSU from all over Western Kansas."

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEEMEN:

Hays: Bill Aubel, Jim Bartels, Roger Batson, Ron Bork, Gary Casey, Standlee Dalton, Norbert Dreiling, Ken Folsom, Jack Goodman, Jim Hower, David King, Lloyd Lundy, Ron Pflughoft, Jim Schiffelbein, Bob Schmidt, Jerry Tomanek.

Beloit: Gail Applebee
Ness City: Lary Brookhart
WaKeeney: Ernest Deines
Hill City: Michael Eck
Liberal: Cliff Haltom and Kerry McQueen
Scott City: Loren Janzen
Goodland: Larry McCants
Russell: John Mills
Dodge City: Larry Noffsinger
Garden City: Lon Pishny
Great Bend: Jim Thurman
Healy: Dwight and Dorothy York.

Ready For Kick-Off

The Advance Division, the second division of the campaign, is to begin soliciting on May 1.



Dean Ellner



Fred Berger

In a conversation with Chairman Dean Ellner, and Vice-Chairman Fred Berger, they are convinced that they have recruited the best possible

Workers available to accomplish the task.

Co-chairman of the campaign, Norbert Dreiling, was also pleased by the "caliber" of the people that have agreed to work. Dreiling's advice is not to be reticent when seeking pledges. "The people of Hays and Western Kansas want to help," he said, "but they will also want to know how much to consider, so don't be bashful . . . advise them."

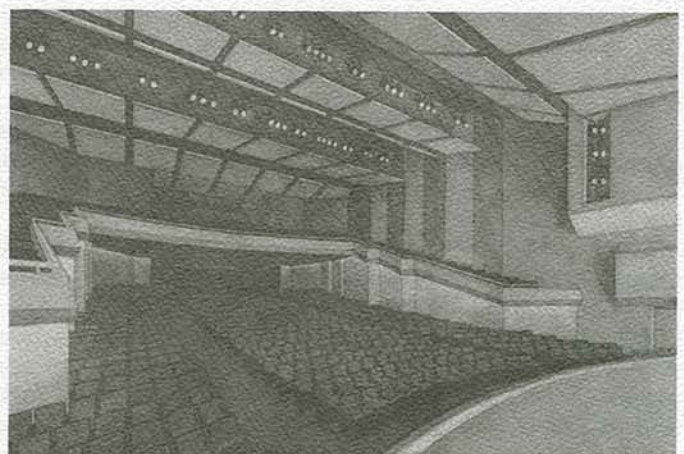
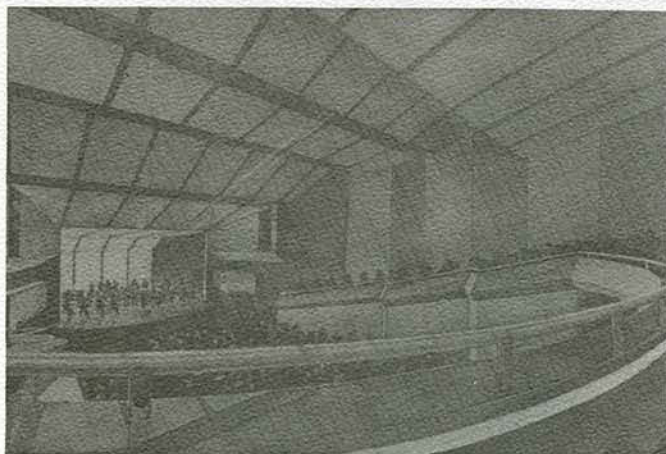
Bob Schmidt, also co-chairman of the campaign, said, "Everyone that you will be calling on, either lives or works in Western Kansas, and they will be helping themselves by contributing to the coliseum." He also mentioned that it would be easier for the Workers to ask someone else to pledge, if they had turned in their own pledge card.



Dane G. Hansen Foundation Pledge To The Sheridan Coliseum Campaign

The Board of Trustees of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, headquartered in Logan, Kansas, voted at a recent meeting, to pledge \$75,000 to the Fort Hays State University/\$2,000,000 Sheridan Coliseum Campaign.

The Trustees agreed that the planned renovation of the coliseum into a 1,200 seat, Performing Arts Center and centralized Student Services Center would continue to allow Fort Hays State to offer quality cultural and educational benefits to Western Kansas.



Shown are the artist's concepts of the new auditorium