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Tomanek Hall: Script, dedication ceremony for Tomanek Hall

Bob Lowen

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by Bob Lowan

(suggested script for jerry tomanek video.....called THE TOMANEK YEARS.....)

music lead.....some high brow Beethoven.....for a few seconds.....some shots of
the campus.....music quietens.....Titles come up....."THE TOMANEK YEARS".....
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY.....suggest voice of BOB SCHMIDT, KAYS GEN. MGR..

GERALD WAYNE TOMANEK SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY FOR 11 YEARS.....FROM 1976 UNTIL 1987 HE RETIRED IN
1987.....HOWEVER.....THE NAME JERRY TOMANEK..... STILL IS
SYNONYMOUS WITH TEACHING EXCELLENCE..... LEADERSHIP.....AND
COMPASSION.....

pause.....

JERRY TOMANEK'S FIRST ASSOCIATION WITH FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY WAS IN 1938 WHEN HE ENROLLED AS A FRESHMAN.....HE
COMPLETED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BOTANY.....

AS WORLD WAR II ESCALATED..... HELIKE SO MANY OF HIS FRIENDS
AND RELATIVES.....JOINED THE MARINE CORPS

WHILE SERVING HIS COUNTRY HE MARRIED A CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART
ARDIS MORELL.....SHE QUICKLY BECAME HIS PILLAR OF STRENGTH..... HIS
SOUNDING BOARD.....A LOVING WIFE.....AND TO THAT UNION..... WHICH
RECENTLY CELEBRATED 50 YEARS TOGETHER.....WAS BORN THREE
DAUGHTERS..... WALTA.....SHEILA.....AND LISA.....

pause.....

FOLLOWING THE WAR'S END..... JERRY RETURNED TO CAMPUS TO
COMPLETE HIS MASTER'S DEGREE.....ALSO IN BOTANY.....

THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZED JERRY'S OBVIOUS TALENTS
FOR TEACHINGRESEARCH.....AND PUBLIC SERVICE.....AND HE WAS
ASKED TO JOIN THE FACULTY IN 1947.....

JERRY COMPLETED HIS DOCTORATE IN BOTANY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA...LINCOLN....IN 1952AND HIS REPUTATION AS AN OUTSTANDING
TEACHER AND RESEARCHER QUICKLY SPREAD WIDELY.....

BECAUSE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND PRESENTATION OF SUBJECT
MATTER.....AND HIS WARM AND CARING ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS
STUDENTS.....JERRY SOON BECAME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PROFESSORS
ON CAMPUS.....

AND HIS REPUTATION BEGAN TO EXCEED CAMPUS BOUNDARIES.....HE
WAS A HIGHLY SOUGHT-AFTER SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP LEADER.....HE WAS
TWICE CALLED TO THE ARGENTINE TO LEND HIS GRASSLANDS EXPERTISE.....
AND HE SERVED CBS TELEVISION AS A CONSULTANT ON A PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS
SPECIAL PROGRAM.....

pause.....

JERRY CLIMBED THE ACADEMIC LADDER FROM INSTRUCTOR TO
FULL PROFESSOR.....TO DEPARTMENT CHAIR.....DIVISION CHAIR.....AND
THEN TO VICE PRESIDENCY FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WHEN ILLNESS FORCED PRESIDENT JOHN W. GUSTAD TO STEP DOWN IN
EARLY 1976.....JERRY TOMANEK WAS NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT.....

AND THOUGH THEY PURSUED A NATIONWIDE SEARCH..... IT DIDN'T TAKE
THE KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS LONG TO FIND THE PERSON THEY FELT SHOULD
LEAD FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY.....THAT PERSON WAS GERALD WAYNE
TOMANEK.....

pause.....

DURING HIS PRESIDENCY.....JERRY ESTABLISHED FRIENDLY.....AND
SINCERE LINE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE.....THE
RESULTS OF THOSE EFFORTS WERE BETTER SALARIES FOR FACULTY.....AND a
BETTER BUDGETARY PROGRAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY.....

WITH JERRY IN CHARGE.....MORE FACULTY WERE HIRED WITH THE
TERMINAL DEGREE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISCIPLINES.....AND CURRICULUM
CHANGES APPROPRIATELY REFLECTED THE STRENGTHS OF THE FACULTY AND
THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF THE STUDENTS.....

UNDER JERRY'S DIRECTION NEW PROGRAMS CAME FORTH.....DEGREED
PROGRAMS SUCH AS A MASTER OF FINE ARTSMASTER OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION.....AND AGRI-BUSINESS.....

AND THE SCHOOL OF NURSING BECAME A REALITY.....

THE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GREWFEDERAL GRANTS
WERE SECURED.....AND POSITIVE GROWTH IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FUND
RAISING ARM OF THE UNIVERSITY.....THE ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION.....
WAS EVIDENT.....

JERRY HELPED SECURE A TWO MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO UPGRADE
CAMPUS WIDE COMPUTER FACILITIESAND SOON..... FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR THE UNIVERSITY ROSE TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH.....

pause.....

AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT HE WILL BE REMEMBERED FORJERRY
TOMANEK WILL ALWAYS BE CREDITED AS BEING THE MAN WHO SAVED
SHERIDAN COLISEUM FROM CERTAIN DESTRUCTION.....

HE LED THE CHARGE TO SECURE FUNDS TO SAVE THE WONDERFUL OLD
STRUCTURE AND TO RENOVATE IT INTO OFFICES AND A PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER.....

TODAY.....HIS DREAM IS REALITY.....

pause.....

DURING JERRY'S PRESIDENCY.....RARICK HALL.....STROUP HALL.....
AND HEATHER HALL WERE CONSTRUCTED AND THE UNIVERSITY FARM TOOK ON A
NEW LOOK.....

THE STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY WAS RENOVATED.....THE
PLYMOUTH STONE SCHOOL HOUSE WAS BROUGHT TO CAMPUS.....OFF CAMPUS
ENROLLMENTS INCREASED THREE-FOLD.....

AND BUDDING PALEONTOLOGISTS HAD TO GO NO FARTHER THAN
MORLAND.....KANSAS TO PARTICIPATE IN A REAL LIVE "DIG" AT THE MINIMUM
SITE.....

pause.....

5

JERRY TOMANEK ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT STUDENTS SHOULD EXCEL IN THE CLASSROOM.....BUT HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT A STRONG INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAM COULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS.....

AND HIS EFFORTS AND SUPPORT FOR BOTH WOMEN'S AND MEN'S SPORTS PROGRAMS DID NOT GO UNREWARDED.....BECAUSE THE TIGERS WON NATIONAL BASKETBALL TITLES IN 1984 AND 1985

pause.....the finale.....

ALTHOUGH HUNDREDS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOOK PLACE UNDER JERRY TOMANEK'S LEADERSHIP AS THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY.....JERRY WOULD BE THE FIRST TO SAY THAT HE SHOULD SHARE THE ACCOLADES FOR THOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH MANY OTHERS.....

PRESIDENT JERRY POSSESSED BOUNDLESS ENERGY.....QUIET BUT KEEN LEADERSHIP ABILITIES.....AND A WEALTH OF ENTHUSIASM.....

BUT WHEN THE WRITING IN THE BOOK ABOUT JERRY TOMANEK IS FINISHED.....IT WILL REFLECT MORE ABOUT JERRY TOMANEK.....THE HUMANITARIAN.....THE CAREGIVER.....THE MAN WHO TRULY CARED FOR HIS STUDENTS.....HIS PEERS.....HIS FRIENDS.....AND HIS FAMILY.....

THE WRITING ABOUT JERRY TOMANEK WILL REFLECT MORE ON THE MAN WHOSE WARMTH AND PERSONABLE NATURE.....TRULY EXEMPLIFIED THE VERY FABRIC OF FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY.....

THIS OUTSTANDING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.....THIS
"UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN KANSAS".....CONTINUES TO MAKE GREAT
STRIDES.....DUE IN GREAT PART TO THE MAN FOR WHOM THIS BEAUTIFUL
NEW FACILITY IS NAMED..... DR. GERALD WAYNE TOMANEK.....