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Rarick Hall

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Rarick Hall
by
T. W. Wells

In 1949 the Legislature appropriated \$75,000 for the purpose of re-modeling the Old Industrial Arts Building, and the Board of Regents authorized the use of \$10,000 additional money from the Oil and Gas Lease fund to complete the work of remodeling the building.

Minutes of the Board of Regents dated September 19, 1952:

"It was moved by Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Poole that upon the recommendation of President M. C. Cunningham the new Industrial Arts building at Fort Hays Kansas State College be named Rarick Hall in honor of C. E. Rarick who served as president of the college from 1934 to 1941. The motion carried unanimously."

Over five decades the educational leaders of Kansas and the administrators of this institution have been studying the fundamental needs of the public schools from the kindergarten to and including the graduate level. With increasing confidence in the wisdom and justice of the legislators from year to year they have asked for and received more liberal appropriations for building and equipping this young, progressive State College in which the training of teachers is emphasized.

Rarick Hall is rapidly becoming the focal center at Fort Hays.

This rugged building, Doric in its outward expression, and beautiful in its utility, was erected from Benton Limestone quarried only a few miles north of Russell, and from deposits south of Walker in Ellis County. The marks of the stone bits, feathers, and wedges decorate the exposed edges of the rocks and tell of man's mastery of a hidden resource of this region.

Indirectly, Rarick Hall came as a response to the provisions of the Normal Training Law enacted in 1909 and made more extensive in 1911 by providing for instruction in elementary agriculture and domestic science in the high schools approved to offer these courses. This school saw the opportunity to aid in training prospective teachers to meet the certificate requirements and asked for a new building. The legislature heard the request and granted an appropriation "for the erection of a building to be used for the purpose of a model agricultural high school, dining hall and library." This building has served the first two functions, but has never housed the library.

Since the building was conceived as a model agricultural high school, the catalogue of 1909-10 announced "four terms of agriculture" in the second year Normal Department.

The catalogue of 1911-12, under work offered in agriculture, lists 18 courses.

The flare for agriculture soon faded out and during the early teen-years shops for manual training, chemistry and physics laboratories and home economics occupied the building until new buildings were erected to house them. During these years, this building came to be called The Industrial Arts Building.

Further, the 1912 catalogue states, "The Agricultural Building was completed at a cost of \$40,000. It is a handsome commodious building well adapted to the uses it serves. It is thoroughly equipped with all modern appliances and conveniences. It is devoted to the departments of household economics, agriculture, physical and biological sciences and geography. Modern laboratories and lecture rooms, equipped with the best apparatus, are provided for these departments."

"The school dining room is located in the basement, and a well-equipped laundry occupies the fourth floor."

An anecdote not in the college catalogue relates that on a certain Halloween a group of wags carried the human skeleton from the physiology Lecture room to the fourth floor, hanged it from the ceiling and then attached a cord to the arm so that when the door was opened the arm would rise and point at the intruder. Next morning when the laundress (name forgotten) opened the door--she vanished--faded away.

When the new Applied Arts Building was completed in 1952 the industrial arts, home economics, ceramics, painting and weaving were housed in their new abode.

During the last two years, what was once the Model Agricultural High School, later the Industrial Building, has had all but the Benton Limestone Walls worked over from the basement to the new tiled roof with the exception of the "well-equipped laundry" on the 4th floor. Every feature of the interior is new, attractive, up-to-date, and serviceable.

Go now and view well-equipped class rooms, offices, and conference rooms, with excellent fluorescent lighting and beautifully tinted walls. Perhaps the hard work and dream of Clarence E. Rarick, to bring the educational offerings of this college to every boy and girl in Western Kansas, has culminated in officially naming this building Rarick Hall.