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Tributes to W. A. Brandenburg

Chanute Tribune

Mellicent McNeil

Kansas City Kansan

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The Best Monument

(From the Chanute Tribune)

Kansas lost a capable educator and institutional executive in the death of William A. Brandenburg, president of the Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg, where he labored in the vineyard with Kansas young people for 27 years.

The school itself is the best monument to Brandenburg's memory ... it was a small, inconsequential institution in 1913 when Brandenburg first became associated with it. Today it is one of the state's outstanding schools, largely due to the president's personal enthusiasm and his

congenial disposition which won recognition from state legislatures from whence came the funds.

"The best politician I ever knew," a close personal friend of Brandenburg said of him when he learned of his death, and this friend meant it as a genuine compliment. He might have said "diplomat" because Brandenburg had the rare ability to handle and work with people, to convince them of the soundness of his arguments and the logic of his reasoning.

Kansas and the Pittsburg school will go a long time before they will find a man capable of filling Brandenburg's shoes because they were large, actually as well as figuratively.

BOUNDLESS ENERGY, BROAD INTERESTS MARKED PRESIDENT

The extraordinary energy and wide interests of President Brandenburg were to me his most outstanding qualities, qualities which bespeak greatness. Fatigue, late hours, and long distances were accepted as ordinary routine without complaint or even comment. The little man would have felt overworked, mistreated, or abused.

To endure a constant strain, one must have interests, both intense and varied. These President Brandenburg had. He entered into the pleasure of a music recital or the enthusiasm of an athletic contest with all the zest of youth. He liked to read, he was fond of poetry, he enjoyed a good

movie, he was delighted with a beautiful autumn scene, he liked conversation.

This breadth of interest was evident in the President as he went about the campus. When attending the various activities of the College, he never wore a bored or dutiful expression but appeared as happy in the program, whatever it was, as the young men and women who were responsible for it. This fresh and youthful attitude, which radiated appreciation for a fine performance, was recognized by the students, who never were in awe of him, never realized he was older than they, never felt that they were placed by him on an inferior plane.

Energy alone could not have won the love of the students, for mere physical attendance at meetings would have had little meaning. But great physical strength combined with a breadth of interest made him a frequent visitor of all types of activities, a trait unusual in college presidents who often hide their weariness or blunted interests behind the alibi of "important business to attend to." Energy combined with wholehearted enthusiasm made President Brandenburg a dynamic personality, rarely met and never forgotten.

—Mellicent McNeil.



A Kansas Career

(From the Kansas City Kansan)

The death of W. A. Brandenburg, president of Kansas State College at Pittsburg, this week ended a 27-year career of service to his school and state. He came to Pittsburg from Oklahoma City in 1913. The College then was known as the State Manual Training Normal. It was housed in two buildings. Its equipment was meagre and its faculty and student body small.

From these beginnings President Brandenburg and his loyal faculty built the College to its present high standing today, one of the five big state schools which Kansas operates and which combines to give Kansas a high ranking among all the states for its excellence of higher education facilities.

Ill health advanced as President Brandenburg neared his 71st year and now death has ended his fruitful career. He was widely known throughout the nation's educational circles, loved by thousands of his former students, respected and sorely missed by his associates. His passing is occasioning expressions of regret throughout the state and beyond.