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NEWS

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RUSSELL COUNTY SCHOOL TO BE RELOCATED AT FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

6-10-77---da

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By Dave Adams
FHS News Bureau

HAYS, Kan.---Russell county's Plymouth School was selected by Phi Delta Kappa, the professional education fraternity, and the group's selection committee as the one they plan to relocate on the Fort Hays State University campus during the 1977-78 academic term.

The schoolhouse relocation project has been the education fraternity's main project in celebration of Fort Hays State's 75th Anniversary which officially begins June 23.

Plymouth School was one of 32 stone schoolhouses screened by the special PDK committee headed by Dr. Allan Miller, associate professor of education at the university.

"Fort Hays State originally functioned to prepare teachers for western Kansas," Miller said, "so there is a regional historical link to one-room schoolhouses. We hope this project will preserve that part of our heritage for eternity."

During the spring semester, a class in American Education compiled histories of the schoolhouses by contacting individuals in the various communities and by tracing records of the schoolhouses in county courthouses. The class found that some of the school's histories included being involved in wars, gambling operations, weddings, community activities, funerals and were even sites for occasional cockfighting contests.

The school will be relocated west of Davis Hall on the FHS campus during the 1977-78 academic year. Labor and much of the funding to move and reconstruct the building will be donated by volunteers. National PDK

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"75 YEARS OF EDUCATION AND SERVICE"

gave the FHS chapter a special funding grant of \$2,500 to be used toward the project.

The project, though coordinated by PDK, was brought several people from all segments together to complete the project. Ann Gustad, Hays graduate student, will supervise archeological aspects of the project; Bill Claflin, associate professor of education, will supervise carpentry; Sam Hamilton, professor of philosophy, will handle masonry; and overall building project supervision will be done by Dave VanDoren, Hays contractor, and Earl Bozeman, FHS planning director. Merle Walker, emeritus professor of geology, will act as coordinator of the museum to be housed in the relocated schoolhouse.

Miller cited several reasons why the committee chose the Plymouth School over the many other possibilities. "Plymouth was the right size, had a very rich history, was made from hard, solid post rock limestone native to western Kansas and is easily accessible to U. S. 40 and I-70 for convenient moving," Miller explained.

Other area stone schoolhouses in the final running included Pleasant Valley in northeast Russell county, Flavious in west Rush county, Rolling Prairie in southeast Russell county, Schohaire in southeast Ness county, Hopewell in central Ellis county, Wilcox in southcentral Trego county, Solomon Valley in central Graham county and Butte Creek in eastern Logan county.