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FOUNDER RUSS IS 101

## College Reflects Progress As

## State Enters Second Century

The College's progress, as seen in day-to-day activities throughout its 58-year history, becomes even more sharply defined this year as Kansas celebrates its 100th anniversary. KSC's growth, traditions and leadership take on a new aspect in the light of this statewide milestone. This issue's cover is meant to symbolize the mutual development of both state and school from humble beginnings many years ago.

KSC Founder R. S. Russ celebrated his 101st birthday anniversary in February, thus topping in longevity the state in which he has made such a lasting contribution to education. The venerable educator spoke to President Leonard H. Axe, Pittsburg Publisher F. W. Brinkerhoff and about 2,000 students and faculty members from his Muskogee, Okla., home via a special phone hookup in Carney Hall Auditorium during the 1961 "Apple Day" convocation March 2. Mr. Russ lauded the "wonderful spirit" the student body has shown through the years.

The College's founder has retained his avid interest in the school and has seen it grow from an idea to more than 25 major buildings, the last eight of which have been planned, started or built since Dr. Axe became president in July, 1957. KSC entered the Kansas Centennial Year under President Axe with the largest enrollment and the largest freshman class in the institution's history. Total enrollment in the fall semester was 3,582 including laboratory schools. Preliminary spring semester enrollment figures indicate a 10.7 per cent increase over the same period last year and the total was rising as late enrollments continued.

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The Centennial Year also finds the College's housing and classroom space at a premium. However, construction on the campus also is reaching historic proportions. From last year to next year, five major projects costing a total of nearly \$2, 500, 000 will have been completed or begun. This is more than half of the total cost and nearly half the number of thirteen building projects completed in the decade before 1960. The five current building projects are: education and psychology, under construction, \$475, 000; Nation Hall dormitory for 126 women, under construction, \$400, 000; Student Center addition, construction starts this spring, \$700, 000; physical science, construction starts next year, \$700, 000; and general services, completed last year, \$125, 000.

But the College's growth is not reflected in its physical plant alone. New academic heights are also being attained. Language, reading and curriculum laboratories are operating on the campus as are a digital computer and the latest science laboratory equipment. Recent acquisitions to the printing department include a \$20, 000 offset press and a Fairchild electronic engraver. Numerous National Science Foundation and federal Institute grants totaling more than \$168, 000 have been received for this year. These are but a few examples of where the College stands in the Kansas Centennial Year.

Pittsburg State has come a long way in the busy years since its founding in 1903 and its early workers have not been forgotten. Founder Russ, about a month before his 101st birthday anniversary, was notified by telegram from President Axe that Mrs. Lena Martin Smith had died. (See separate story in this issue.) Several days later Dr. George Edmund Myers was dead. (See separate story in this issue.)

Mr. Russ received many messages of congratulations on his 101st

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birthday anniversary. Among them was this telegram from Kansas Governor John Anderson: "Congratulations and best wishes to you on this your 101st birthday. The citizens of Kansas are deeply indebted to you for your many contributions to this state. May this be a happy and memorable day for you."

Pittsburg's Mayor Harold W. Compton telegraphed Mr. Russ: "Best wishes from the citizens of Pittsburg for whom you have done so much. We are forever grateful to you for the marvelous educational opportunities provided through your efforts."

President Axe wired: "It is with the greatest personal pleasure that I extend the official congratulations of Kansas State College of Pittsburg on the 101st anniversary of its founder. As the College continues to grow and expand, its administration, faculty, students and alumni are ever mindful of what you have done for them. I consider it a profound privilege to renew on their behalf the pledge that your efforts will long continue as a cherished trust. The inestimable worth of your fight for education in the state of Kansas, which only now is marking its 100th birthday anniversary, is borne out by the high value being placed on learning by an ever increasing number of its young men and women. May your efforts on behalf of higher education in Kansas shed radiance upon all your days."

And so the state of Kansas follows KSC's founder into its second century and the College, more than ever concerned with its increasing responsibilities, girds itself for the long pull to its own centennial anniversary only 42 years away.

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