

K-HILL



by BOB BALDWIN, CE Sr.

K-STATE is finally a university. K-Hill looks bare without a "U" after the "KS". The engineers have been responsible for the building and upkeep of the "KS"; perhaps it's time for the engineers to go to work again for a "U".

The story of the project goes back to several years before 1921. Students talked about it until finally one class built a "K" of loose rock on Bluemont hill. This didn't last long, so the next talk was about a reinforced concrete letter. In 1921, the Civil Engineering Society took

the lead in promoting such a permanent letter. The General Engineering Seminar voted funds sufficient to build it, and classes were dismissed when everything was ready to go. The engineers marched to the hill led by a brass band. With the whole school helping the project was completed the next day.

Everyone was in favor of the immediate addition of an "S", but no group took the lead and nothing was done for many years. In 1930, Sigma Tau organized a committee to promote the second letter. The

General Engineering Seminar soon decided that they would do the work if the rest of the school would furnish the funds.

Five hundred dollars was pretty big money in the thirties, so it became quite a problem. After sponsoring movies, boxing matches, and promoting donations from faculty and business men, and \$125 from the Seminar treasury they finally raised enough cash.

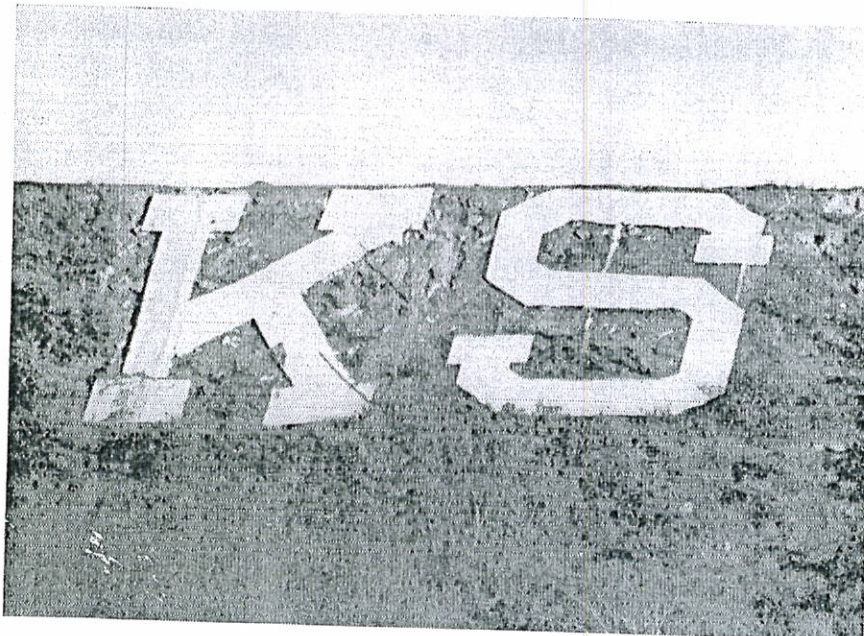
This section of the hill required considerable preparatory work and a day was spent clearing the area. The "S" was completed the next day in the rain. The chairman of the committee presented the letter to the college and the city of Manhattan in an appropriate ceremony, complete, with Dr. J. T. Willard and the mayor, Hurst Majors, representing the college and city, respectively.

The land on which the letters were constructed changed hands several times. No clear agreement assuring the engineers the right to maintain the letters could be found, so a movement to acquire the title to the land was begun by Sigma Tau in 1937. Sufficient funds were not available to buy the entire 28-acre tract, so proceedings were begun to have the section set aside as a park. This was not successful, and

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K-Hill as it appears today.

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a practical solution was agreed upon in the spring of 1946.

In exchange for a 220-foot strip of land, including enough space for the "C" (now a "U") plus easement rights permitting entrance at any time, Sigma Tau members agreed to survey and subdivide 30 acres of property for the land owner. This was completed before the end of the '47 school year, after many Fridays and Saturdays of hard work.

In an all-school assembly on October 16, 1947, the deed was presented to the college by Prof. L. V. White, faculty advisor to Sigma Tau and consistent promoter of the project for 10 years. President Eisenhower accepted for the college.

The flood of 1951 washed the lower part of the upright leg of the "K" into the river. Again the engineers got busy and the Engineering Council got the money appropriated for its repair. The "K" was repaired in the spring of 1958.

The engineers are tied to K-Hill by much more than the rest of the University. They are tied by sweat
