

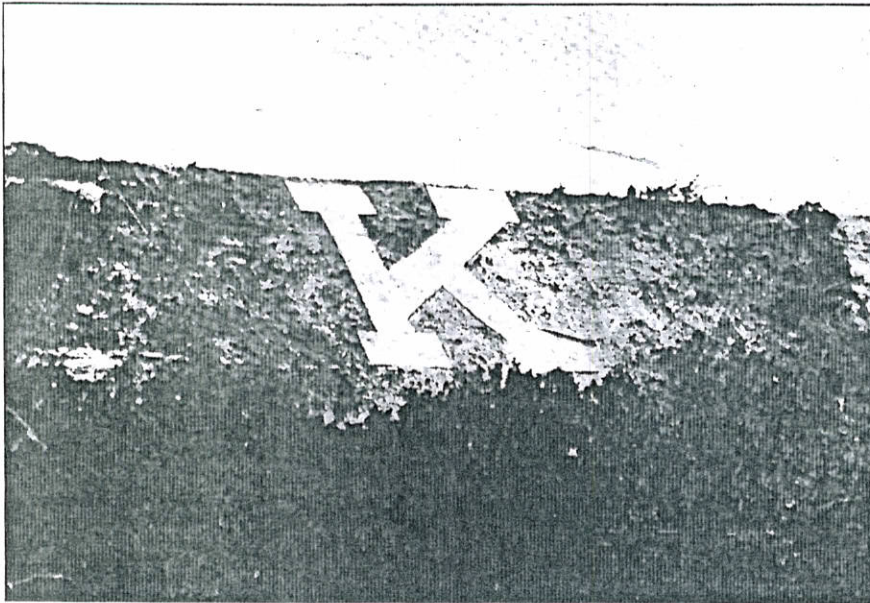
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THE ENGINEERS BUILD "K" ON PROSPECT



The original "K," as seen above, was completed in 1921 by K-State engineers.

When a stranger first arrives in Manhattan, whether by train, airplane, automobile or Ford, the first thing that he notices is a large concrete "K" on the west slope of Prospect point. Naturally he begins to ask questions. He is told that the "K" stands for Kansas State College, and that it was built in the spring of 1921 by the Engineering Division of the College. If, by chance, he should question one of the Civil Engineers, he would be told, that in the early part of 1921 the Civil Engineering Society brought up and discussed the proposition of building a suitable memorial for the College. There had been considerable agitation at various times in the past to build a "K" and several attempts had been made by various

departments and classes but no permanent marker had ever been built. One attempt made in past years reached the stage where a large letter was blocked out on Prospect by using strips of canvas, but the plans were never completed. For a short time there was a "K" on Bluemont, made of loose rock, but it soon disappeared. It remained to the Civil Engineers to start the movement that finally resulted in the present "K". After several plans had been suggested, a committee was elected, with A. H. Brower, as chairman, to draw up plans and specifications for the "K," and to supervise the actual construction work. This committee reported to the society that the most suitable location was on the west slope of Prospect, and advised that

the "K" should be made of reinforced concrete; plans for such a letter were included in the report. The report was approved by the society, and individual members pledged enough money to construct a "K" about forty feet square. It was finally decided that such a "K" would not be large enough and as the Civils thought that it should not be entirely a departmental memorial, the other Engineering Societies were invited to help out in the work and share in any honors resulting therefrom. The other Societies being in favor of the idea, the matter was brought up and discussed in General Seminar, and an assessment was voted which would be sufficient to build a "K," eighty feet long and sixty feet wide. Plans were then made for the new "K" and a date set for constructing it.

The work was done under the following plan: The Freshman and

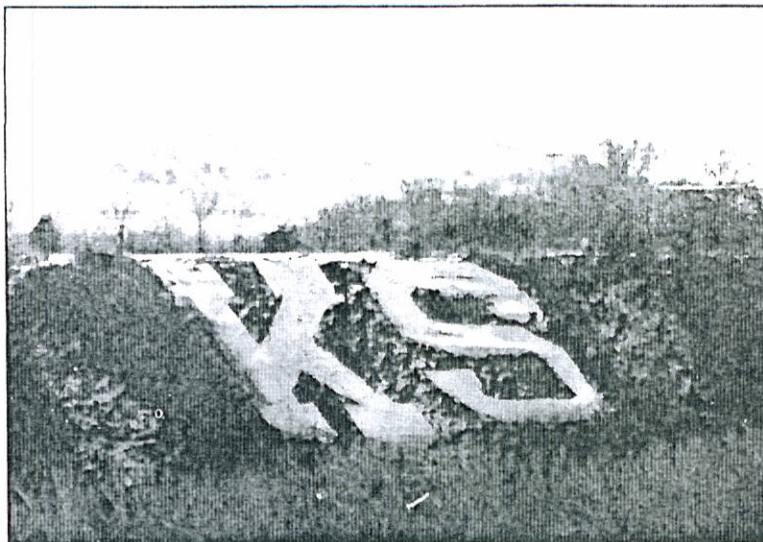
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Juniors were excused from classes in the morning and the Sophomores and Seniors in the afternoon. The men were divided into groups with a man in charge of each group who would be responsible for a certain part of the work. On the appointed date the

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engineers met in Aggieville, dressed in work clothes, and marched to the hill led by a band composed of entirely Engineers. A road had previously been constructed to the top of the hill and all of the material was on the ground, ready for the men to go to work. The ground was cleared, all of the excavating was done, and forms were set in the morning. In the afternoon the reinforcing was placed and at 2:00 o'clock the first batch of concrete was placed in the forms. By that evening the "K" was practically completed. On the following day the finishing work was done by men who volunteered to work.

The "K" measures eighty feet in length and sixty feet in width with the stems twelve feet wide and about one foot in depth. It is anchored to the hill by means of heavy concrete lugs on the under side, and is tied to railroad rails set in concrete at the top of the hill. It is reinforced by means of a network of heavy wire cables. In constructing the "K," 210 sacks of cement and 50 cu. yds. of sand and crushed rock were used.



Today we can look upon the "KS"...who knows, maybe in a couple of decades it will be "KSU".

This is the story of the "K" on Prospect point. It will stand as an everlasting memorial to the school, and a tribute to the skill and perseverance of the men who successfully carried out their plans to completion after many unsuccessful attempts had been made.

This article ran in the October 1921 Issue of the Kansas State Engineer. Since then, an "S" has been added to the memorial on Prospect.
