



HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA



1882

1974



1225 C OF E DR.



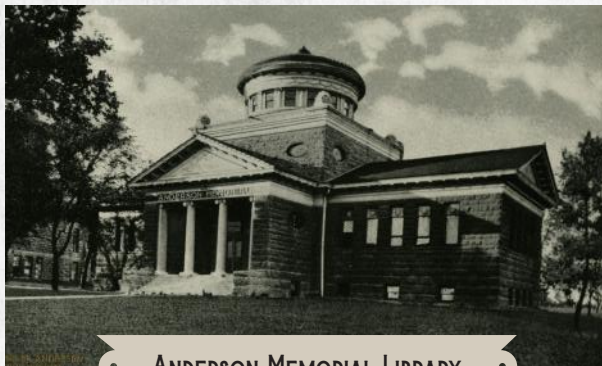
HISTORY TIMELINE

1877 » The Reverend Robert Overstreet, chairman of the Education Committee of the Kansas Synod, proposed locating a Presbyterian College in Emporia. United States Senator Preston B. Plumb staunchly supported the plan.

1882 The Presbyterian Synod of Kansas met in Ottawa and accepted Emporia's offer of \$35,000 and 38 acres of land to establish a Synodical college in Emporia. The Synod also had considered offers from Salina, Peabody, and Marion.

1882-1891 Rev. J.F. Hendy became the first president of the College of Emporia. **1883** Fifteen students were enrolled when on Nov. 1st classes began upstairs at the Addis Building on the northwest corner of Sixth and Commercial in downtown Emporia.

1886 » The College of Emporia moved to its permanent location, with classes held in the partially completed Stuart Hall. It was named after Mrs. R.V. Stuart of New York who had donated \$10,000 to begin its construction. **1889** C. of E's first commencement was held in Austin Chapel of Stuart Hall. William J. Austin, a wealthy Emporian, financed the chapel and paid to plant trees and lay out walkways around campus. **1892-1898** John Hewett became the second president of the college. Hewett, a graduate of Princeton, developed a liberal arts curriculum. He also laid down strict rules for the students: no dancing, no card-playing, and no smoking. He also required attendance at Chapel. **1899** President Hewett died and three students, who had left college to serve in the Spanish-American War, were granted degrees in absentia. John Calvin Miller served as the third president from 1899-1905.



ANDERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

1902 » Dedication was held for the Anderson Memorial Library, the first Carnegie Library built west of the Mississippi and the first on a college campus. **1905-1907** Rev. William Dennis Ward served as the 4th president. **1907-1917** Henry Coe Culbertson, described as a human dynamo, became the fifth president. Culbertson's decade at

the college marked great progress and courage during the Stuart Hall fire, yet his tenure ended in scandal. Culbertson resigned in 1917, despite strong support from William Allen White, Pulitzer Prize-winning editor of the Emporia Gazette.

1917-1918 Charles Scott, the Rev. James Bean, and Dr. Conrad Vandervelde each served as acting president. **1910** The Athena Society was organized to recognize scholarship. An Athena Cup with the name of the top-ranking senior in each graduating class was kept in the president's office. **1911** Kansas Power & Light ran a street car to Emporia to C. of E. Harry Tang of Canton, China became the first foreign-student graduate.

1912 » The Mason family of Emporia donated funds to build a gymnasium to honor their son, a C. of E. alumnus.

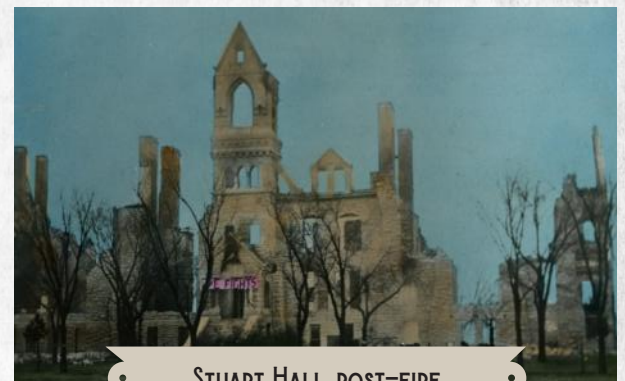
1914 Lewis Hall of Science was financed and built.



FRANK MASON GYM 1913

The hiring of Daniel Hirschler as head of the music department ushered in a Golden Age of Music. **1914** William Allen White joined the Board of Trustees. He lectured on journalism and was a staunch and generous supporter of the school.

1915 » When Stuart Hall burned on December 2, President Culbertson and Dean Daniel Schaffner rushed into the fire



STUART HALL. POST-FIRE

trying to save school records. The men nearly were crushed in the effort, when the bell crashed to the ground next to them.

The following day, a sign appeared over the ruins: "C. of E. Fights." It became the C. of E. rallying cry. **1917** President Culbertson resigned among accusations of mismanagement and unchristian behavior that Trustee W.A. White considered silly.

1918 - 1929 » Fifth C. of E. President Franklin Lewis began a period of much-needed stability at the institution. A "cemetery" for defeated foes was named for football coach Gwinn Henry, who later became coach at the University of Missouri. **1928-1929** Daniel Schaffner was acting president.



C. OF E. FOOTBALL GAME 1922

1919 » The basement and chapel of the new administration building were completed. Dean Hirschler designed the chapel's \$30,000 pipe organ. **1921** The board of trustees established The Million Movement, to raise funds for the administration building, eliminate the debt, and create an endowment fund. The goal was reached and the new building, with its uncompleted facade, as ready for classes by June of 1924.

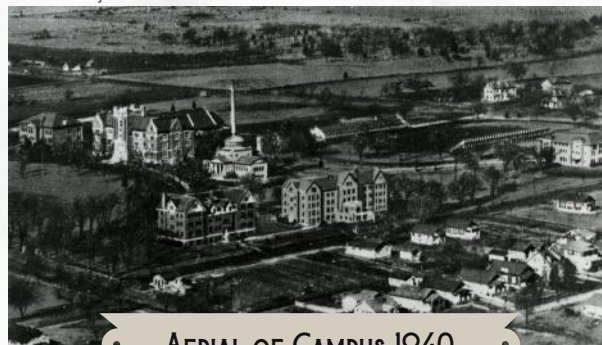
1923 » Head football coach Harold Grant continued to build on former football coach Gwinn Henry's winning tradition. Grant was an alumnus and former Presby football star. **1924** Dunlap Hall was completed and named for Emporian Howard Dunlap, a long-time C. of E. supporter. **1925** Cosmopolitan Club was established for students interested in missions, and for foreign students sent to the college from missions run by alumni.

1928 » Kenyon Hall was completed and named for the late Emporian J.S. Kenyon, whose estate paid for the building's handsome facade. **1934** The C. of E. chorus went to the Chicago World's Fair. Three presidents served between **1929 & 1941**. They were John Bailey Kelly, sixth president, 1929-1938; Dudley Doolittle, seventh, 1938-40; and Rev. Leslie G. Whitmore, eighth, 1940-1941. **1940** Memorial Altar in the center of the semi-circle drive was dedicated.



KENYON HALL

1941 » Trustees considered closing C. of E. when enrollment fell during World War II. To keep the school open, Dean Hirschler became the college's ninth president, taking over from F.B. Ross, acting president. Under Hirschler's leadership, **1942-1947**, the budget was balanced, salaries were raised, and the endowment fund shored up. Post-war, enrollment increased rapidly to more than 400 students. 1944 On the chapel organ he had designed earlier, Hirschler played a requiem for the funeral of his friend and board trustee, William Allen White, whose funeral was held in Kenyon Hall. Paul McCleave became the 10th president, serving from **1948-1952**, following Phillip H. Margler, who had been acting president in **1947**. F.B. Ross served a second term as acting president in **1952**, when Luther Sharp became C. of E.'s 11th president. Sharp's success in fundraising resulted in Bovaird Stadium, Maybee Science Hall, and Vollmer dormitory.



AERIAL OF CAMPUS 1940

1953-1955 » Coach Wayne McConnell had three undefeated football seasons at the college and received recognition as Little All-American Coach of the year 1955.

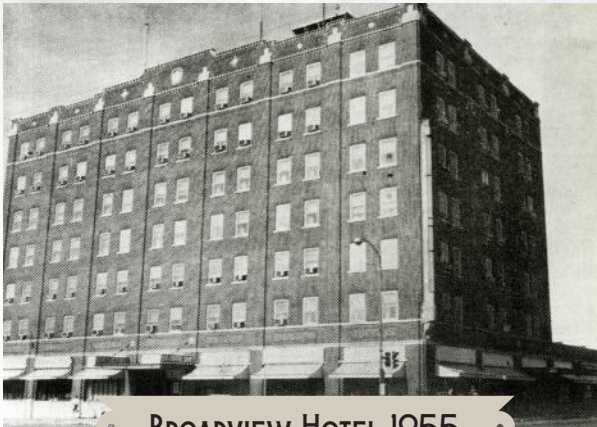
1956 » Bill Schnebel, hired that year as head football coach, was chosen as District 10 NAIA Coach of the year



The Fighting Presbies

1960 » Schnebel was named Little All American Coach of the Year in 1960. He led the team into undefeated seasons in 1962 and 1963. Dr. Robert McAdee became acting president in 1960, before Francis Walters took over as the 12th president in **1960-61**. Rev. Richard Hanna became acting president in 1961, when the college again faced financial crises. Joseph Laughlin served as the 14th president from 1961-1968.

1961 » Enrollment began to build utilizing recruitment in the eastern U.S., and peaked at 1000-plus. The college purchased the Broadview Hotel for student housing, and renamed it the Downtown Center.

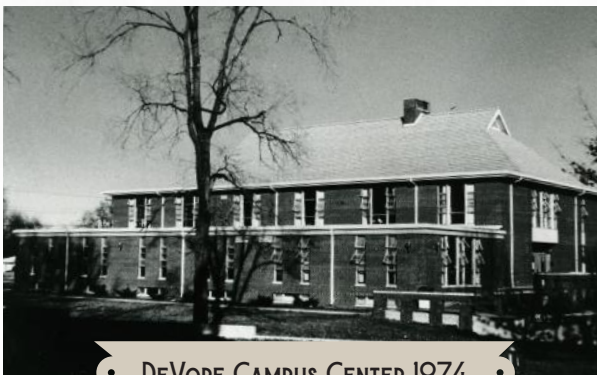


BROADVIEW HOTEL 1955

1962 » Roger Johnson was hired as head of the music department. He formed a select vocal group, Toppers, which performed popular and light classical selections throughout the state and on national tours. The Toppers performed at the New York World's Fair in 1964.

1965 » The DeVore Campus Center and Student Union opened.

1966-67 » C. of E athletes won Kansas Conference Championships in football, basketball, and baseball.



DEVORE CAMPUS CENTER 1974

1967 » The Anderson Memorial Library was transformed into an art center after the dedication of the new Laughlin-Lewis Library.

1970 » The Music Department jazz ensemble and 50-voice choir joined world-renown jazz artists Stan Kenton and Clark Terry to present the world premier of Frank Salisbury's "Beatitudes" at the Emporia Civic Auditorium, as part of C. of E.'s annual jazz festival. A double album resulted from the live recording. Frank Johnson was department chairman. That year, Ronald Ebberts became the 15th and last president of the College of Emporia.

1971 » The Myrta Lee Memorial Chapel opened. The donor insisted the money be put toward the cost of building a chapel, rather than toward financing operations of the college. This stipulation exacerbated the college's already-serious shortage of funds.

1973 » Falling enrollment, financial instability, and a failed \$500,000 fundraising effort combined to cause the College of Emporia to close after the fall semester 1973.

1974 » The Way International, a non-denominational ministry headquartered in new Knoxville, Ohio, purchased the C. of E. campus for \$694,000. It operated as The Way College of Emporia from 1975 until 1989.



LAUGHLIN-LEWIS LIBRARY 1968



ANDERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1977

All photos courtesy of the
Walter M. Anderson Collection
Timeline sourced from c-of-e.org

The College of Emporia

Part 1: Birth of an Institution

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles about the former College of Emporia, a private Presbyterian institution that operated here from 1883 through 1973. Alumni will be in Emporia this weekend for their annual reunion, related tours and activities.

By Bobbi Mlynar
Special to The Gazette

Offering incentives to attract new businesses and industries is not a new idea. It's been happening in Kansas and in Emporia since at least the late 1800s, and is one reason why this city for 90 years was home to two colleges.

According to records, the idea of establishing a Synodical college in Kansas originated in 1877 with the Rev. Robert N. Overstreet, then-pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Emporia and chairman of the Education Committee of the Kansas Synod.

Emporia, Salina, Peabody, and Marion all were under consideration as possible sites.

The City of Emporia responded to Overstreet's plan by offering the Presbyterian Synod of Kansas a package deal -- \$35,000 and 38 acres of land -- which the Synod accepted in 1882, and appointed Overstreet to be in charge of raising a \$50,000 endowment fund, according to historical records.

Sen. Preston B. Plumb, one of the city founders, donated \$2,000 and became a member of the board of trustees, and other members of the community joined in the effort.

Plans were made to build the college outside the city's western boundary, which at the time was at West Street. The campus spanned an approximate area between what would become 12th and 15th Avenues and Chestnut and Lincoln Streets.

Classes, however, began Nov. 1, 1883, in the college's first temporary home, the upstairs of the Addis Building at the northeast corner of Sixth Avenue and Commercial Street, now the site of Capitol Federal.



The Rev. John F. Hendy, pastor of Emporia Presbyterian Church, served as college president and taught religion; Greek, Latin and mathematics also were part of the curriculum. By the following year, Hendy was devoting all of his time to C. of E., and moved the "campus" to Eighth Avenue and Commercial Street, according to a history of the college written by Minnie Miller and William Edwards and published in The Gazette in June 1982.

Classes moved again in 1886, this time to the partially completed Stuart Hall at the college's permanent location. Mrs. R. L. Stuart of New York had donated \$10,000 for the building, according to historical records.

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

The administration also placed considerable emphasis on its science program. When city water lines reached the campus in 1894, C. of E. opened a laboratory.

The little Presbyterian college and Kansas University were the only two schools in the state that had X-ray equipment, the article stated.

By that time, interest in athletics also was

blooming on campus. Emporia banker Major Calvin Hood helped furnish a gymnasium for the students in the basement of Stuart Hall.

War, as often happens, interrupted studies for young men of that era. In 1898, three men were granted degrees in absentia because they already had left to serve in the Spanish-American War.

The town's population and the college's reputation grew in spite of the war. By 1905, students had petitioned the city to install street lights as far as the campus. It wasn't until 1911 that Kansas Power and Light Company ran its street cars to C. of E., the history series said.

That year, Harry Tang of Canton, China, became the college's first foreign graduate, according to the C. of E. alumni website.

FIRST CARNEGIE IN THE WEST

C. of E. not only held the first Carnegie Library built west of the Mississippi, it was the first Carnegie Library built on a college campus. C. of E. also was closely affiliated with John Anderson, Andrew Carnegie's former boss for whom the Anderson Memorial Library was named.

The College of Emporia

Part 1: Birth of an Institution

According to the Miller-Edwards series, Carnegie as a young man had worked for Col. John Anderson, a division superintendent for a Pennsylvania railroad. Anderson had allowed Carnegie access to his private library, where the young man had learned to love books and libraries, the Miller-Edwards history series stated.

Anderson later moved to Kansas and became a trustee for the College of Emporia.

Carnegie, in the meantime, had become extraordinarily successful, both as a leader in the expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19th century and as a philanthropist.

"After (Anderson's) death, Carnegie wrote Mrs. Anderson with an offer to build a library in Anderson's memory," the Miller-Edwards series stated. "His widow suggested that the library be placed at C. of E."

Carnegie donated approximately \$30,000 for the library, with the stipulation that the college must eliminate its \$18,000 debt.

The Kansas Synod donated \$13,000 and Emporians contributed the remaining \$5,000 to satisfy the requirement. The native-hewn limestone Anderson Memorial Library was completed, then dedicated at the 1902 commencement ceremony.

TRIAL BY FIRE

The college continued to flourish and grow during those early years, despite a destructive fire, brouhahas over organization memberships, and a controversy involving then-President Henry Coe Culbertson, who served with "missionary fervor" from 1907 to 1917.

Fraternities and sororities traditionally had been banned on-campus, so a bit of an uproar resulted when in 1908 six football players were accused of belonging to a fraternity.

Three of them were expelled, three were suspended, and "such organizations came to an end," according to the Miller-Edwards history series.

Literary societies, however, were allowed to continue because they provided both entertainment and opportunities to practice public speaking.

Dec. 2, 1915, disaster struck when a fire consumed Stuart Hall. President Culbertson and Dean Daniel Schaffner had entered the building in an attempt to save at least some of the records being destroyed in the flames.

"The two just missed being struck when the college bell, donated by Major Hood, crashed to the ground," the Miller-Edwards report stated. A grand piano, the pipe organ, and a Stradivarius violin owned by a new music

teacher, Adolph Kramer, all were lost in the blaze.

"The next morning, after the authorities had placed barbed wire around the smoking ruins, a sign appeared there with the school's rallying cry: 'C. of E. (still) Fights,' " the report said. Only \$32,000 of the \$100,000 loss was covered by insurance, so Gazette editor and publisher and college trustee William Allen White -- a former C. of E. student -- headed a rebuilding committee. C. of E. students pledged over \$2,000; the Normal School (now Emporia State University) faculty gave \$1,000.

'UNCHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR'

"The campaign would have been successful," Miller and Edwards wrote, "if it had not become bogged down by the problems of President Culbertson."

Culbertson had been perceived as a "human dynamo," often refusing to drive his carriage to work because he could walk faster. Despite his accomplishments at C. of E., there were those who were dissatisfied with his performance.

Several trustees accused him of mismanaging college funds and of "unchristian behavior."

"He refused to resign until he was exonerated by the board of trustees, which was done on June 1, 1916," the report stated.

The trustees' vote failed to satisfy some local Presbyterians, however, and after a trial held in church, Culbertson was sent a letter of admonition.

A WHITE GOLDEN PARACHUTE

W.A. White, who considered the situation "quite silly," already had arranged for Culbertson's next career before the trial began.

Through his friendship with President Herbert Hoover, White had secured a job for Culbertson as secretary of the U.S. Food Administration. Culbertson later became president of Ripon College in Wisconsin and ultimately served as minister for two



The College of Emporia

Part 1: Birth of an Institution

churches -- both of them Congregational, not Presbyterian, the report emphasized.

White's funeral in 1944, the article noted, was held in Kenyon Hall on campus.

"Not only was Kenyon Hall an appropriate place for the funeral of a man who had done so much for the college, it had an auditorium capable of seating over a thousand people," the article said. "Many distinguished guests as well as numerous Emporians attended to honor the town's leading citizen."

BEGINNING OF THE 'GLORY DAYS'

The Culbertson episode had no long-term effect on the college. In fact, it ushered in "The Glory Days of C. of E." with President Frederick W. Lewis at the helm from 1917 until 1928.

Enrollment had climbed to almost 500 students; graduates were completing master's degrees quickly at "such universities as Kansas University and Columbia University in New York," the report stated.

The campaign to rebuild Stuart Hall was moving along well, with the basement and chapel of the main building completed by Commencement 1919. Dean Hirschler had designed a \$30,000 organ for the chapel, and another fundraising campaign, the "Million Movement," was approved by the trustees in 1921. Achieving the \$1 million goal would allow completion of the administration building, elimination of the debt, and the creation of an endowment fund.

The Carnegie Foundation donated \$50,000 to the cause; John D. Rockefeller's General Education Fund added \$100,00, and so did the C. of E. Board of Trustees. By June of 1924, all of the money had been donated or pledged.

NATIONAL HONORS

In 1951, C. of E. was included in "Scientific American" magazine's article titled "Origins of United States Scientists."

The magazine listed 50 colleges and universities, and ranked them according to the number of prominent scientists who had graduated from those schools. The University of Chicago ranked No. 16, the Miller-Edwards article reported. Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore was No. 19.

The College of Emporia ranked No. 20 on the 50-school list.

In 1926, John Brewster and Orlo Choguill won the national Pi Kappa Delta debate championship, competing against students from more than 60 larger colleges and universities.

In 1927, Reggie Carter and Louise Lawrence placed first in the Men's and Women's State Oratorical contests.

Those types of academic successes continued throughout C. of E.'s existence and extended into athletics as well. The college became known for its small but solid programs that attracted students from other parts of the country and occasionally the world.

The college had recovered from a dip in status when, during the Great Depression, it had lost its accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The accreditation never lapsed again.

Student numbers continued to grow steadily and reached their pinnacle during the 1960s, when an influx of students primarily from the East Coast found their way to the C. of E. campus because they were unable to attend institutions in their home regions. The high numbers of college-age "baby boomers" were crowding onto higher education classrooms across the country.

Within a decade, the phenomenon had passed. Student numbers at C. of E. plunged in the 1970s and, coupled with a heavy debt load, creditors forced the closing and the sale of the campus.

Details of the collapse will be a series topic later this week.

CROSS-TOWN RIVALRY

As often happens, students come to college to earn academic degrees, but it is athletics that often unites the student body into one voice. C. of E. and its Fighting Presbies were no exception.

A rivalry between the College of Emporia and the Normal School surfaced not long after the new college was established. Records show football games between the College of Emporia and the Normal School had been played as far back as the 1890s. In 1901, C. of E. for the second time won the Mit-Way Silver and Gold Cup, affiliated with the Mit-Way Hotel in downtown Emporia, and consequently claimed permanent ownership of the cup.

It was the Thanksgiving game, however, that became a town event beginning in 1915. Dinners were planned around the 2 p.m. kickoff time, with game sites alternating between the Normal School and C. of E. stadiums.

Football Coach Gwinn Henry had opened the door to what became known as the "great days" of C. of E. football. His successor, Harold Grant, built on the program and continued the successes that included multiple conference championships and an enviable win-loss record, despite a tragedy that struck in 1930.

On Wednesday, Part 2 of the C. of E. series will focus on sports.

The College of Emporia

Part 2: Success of the 'Fighting Presbies'

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles about the former College of Emporia, a private Presbyterian institution that operated here from 1883 through 1973. Alumni will be in Emporia this weekend for their annual reunion, related tours and activities.

By Bobbi Mlynar
Special to The Gazette

Intercollegiate athletics came quickly to the College of Emporia after it settled onto a developing 38-acre campus slightly northwest of the Emporia city limits.

The college, established by the Presbyterian Synod of Kansas, had begun classes with 15 students in the upstairs of the Addis Building at the northeast corner of Sixth Avenue and Commercial Street.

By 1886, classes had been moved to the partially completed Stuart Hall at the college's permanent location.

In 1894, the thriving college had a student population large enough to support academics and an athletics program. Intercollegiate football for the "Fighting Presbies" had begun.

Uniforms were red and white; the chant "C. of E. Fights" took hold and carried cheerleaders and fans through almost 80 years of competitions, beginning with football.

Baseball followed in 1902, track in 1903, basketball in 1908, tennis in 1922, and golf in 1924. The college fielded a wrestling team for four years, beginning in 1926, and cross country teams competed briefly in the 1960s, according to a seven-part series on C. of E. sports written by Ed Shupe and published in The Gazette in January, 1974, a few weeks after the college closed.

The photo (right) is of a Football game in 1922 between the College of Emporia "College Rooters" and The University of Washburn. The final score was Emporia 6, Washburn 3.

ROUNDBALL

C. of E.'s first basketball coach was Homer Woodson (Bill) Hargiss, who had been hired to coach all sports at the college.

His first season brought only a 6-8 won-loss record, but by 1911-12 season, the team compiled a 12-2 record, still one of the best winning percentages in the history of the college.

The following season brought a 12-4 record, with defeats at the hands of Baker University in the championship game, as well as regular-season losses to Baker, K-State and K.U.

C. of E. avenged the K.U. loss, Shupe wrote, with a 28-18 win later in the season.

Five winning seasons were recorded in the 1920. Basketball, however, proved to be less successful than football until 1933-34 season, which brought C. of E. its first conference title.

All of the college Athletics programs were suspended for the duration World War II, Shupe wrote.

When the spring semester of the 1945-46 season opened, 13 veterans had returned to action on the court, with seven who had been lettermen before the war. They were, at the time, "the tallest team in Kansas."

The lineup included John Heckman, Bob Lodle, Wiley Alberg, John Webb, John Sample, Truman Haskell and Max, Jack, and Bill Smith. Jack Smith finished his senior year listed among the top five in the nation in free-throw shooting percentage.



*Bill Danekhan - Letter to Ed Shupe 1955
Baltimore Colts - 1956 - 57*

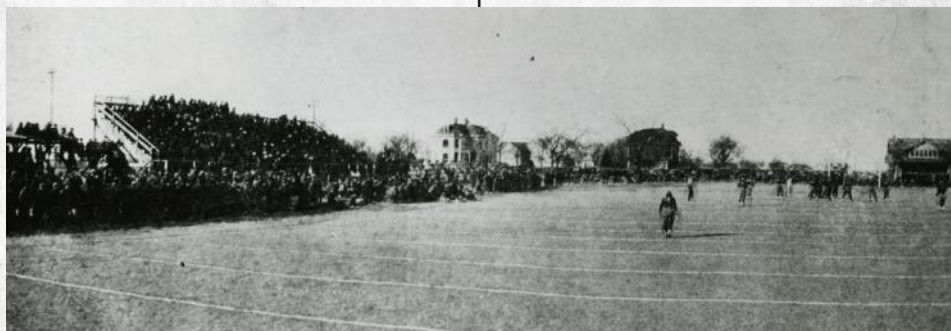
"By today's standards, however, they would be pretty small," Shupe wrote, "as 6-4 was the tallest height attained by any of the players."

One of the school's shortest basketball players, Charlie Dehlinger, set several school records in the mid-1950s that were still on the books when the school closed.

Dehlinger, who was named to the all-conference team three consecutive years, averaged a record 28.6 points per game during his sophomore year.

He ended his career with 1,720 points in 82 games for a career average of 20.9 points per game.

Dehlinger also holds the school record for 20 free throws made in a single game, 220 free throws made his sophomore season, and 726 free throws during his career.



The College of Emporia

Part 2: Success of the 'Fighting Presbies'

60S BRINGS MORE TITLES

The Presbies shared the conference basketball title with Southwestern in 1960-61, Bob Johnson's first season as coach.

A second shared title followed the next season. It was not until the 1965-66 season that C. of E. went 20-5 and garnered an undisputed title for the first time in history.

That team was led by two small guards -- Gary Davison and Bill Linhart -- and by forward Gary Gibb.

In District 10 playoffs, the Presbies defeated St. Benedict's 71-70. In the finals, however, Pittsburg State eked out an 85-84 win over C. of E., Shupe wrote, "then made matters worse by hiring away the Presby coach a few months later."

Gene Stauffer took over as coach the following season and brought home a tie for the Southern division of the conference.

Led by Charles Golson and Jim Young, the team met continued successes, setting a school record in scoring in 1971-72 with 2,233 points for an average of 85.8 points per game.

The college transferred to the new Heart of America conference at the start of the 1971-72 season, and took the championship the next two years with identical HAC 13-1 records and 20-6 and 21-8 records overall. Again the Presbies participated in the District 10 tournament, though this time the team dropped the game to the KCAC champion, Bethel, in the first round.

Golson and Young combined in the school's last year to provide "the best one-two scoring punch in school history," Shupe wrote.

SPRING SPORTS

Track, baseball, golf and tennis never were strong sports at C. of E., Shupe said, but each of the teams did have stand-out years along the way, as did individuals.

The 1937 track team finished the season undefeated and swept to the KCAC championship.

Truman Haskell, who also had been part of the tallest basketball team in Kansas, set a conference record of 9.9 seconds in the 100-yard dash when track meets resumed in 1946, after the war ended.

The 1954 team repeated an undefeated season and KCAC championship and, powered on by Willie Gaines and Lloyd Elm, the track team also won the conference in 1955.

ROUNDBALL

Only a few baseball games were played during the early years, and the Presbies managed to lose all of them.

In 1910, however, the team got its first regular coach in O.M. (Mit) Wilhite, Shupe wrote.

After posting a 3-9 record that year, the Presbies followed up with an 11-7 record, including 8-1 and 2-1 decisions over Kansas Normal School, about a mile east of the C. of E. campus.

Wilhite was followed by Hargiss and Wayne Granger, but after the 1916 season, baseball did not occupy a permanent spot on the calendar again until 1948.

Two years later, C. of E. won the KCAC tournament among the colleges that fielded baseball teams.

The Presbies added two more conference titles in 1953 and 1954. By then, enough KCAC colleges participated in baseball to warrant playing for an official conference crown.

Among the members of the '53 and '54 teams were Charlie Dehlinger, Bob Swedberg, Ron Ebberts, Ron Hein, John Hart, Joe Barber, Gene Sobke, and Jay Hardesty. Newcomers Floyd Reichardt, Don Schrader, Don Blaylock and Bob Bodenheimer joined them on the 1954 team.

THEN, THERE WAS FOOTBALL

"There was not a sport in which the Red and White competed that did not at some time produce a conference championship," Shupe wrote. "But it was with its football teams that the college gained its biggest measure of fame...."

Shupe devoted four of the seven series articles to C. of E.'s football successes. Although it was not uncommon for colleges to include high school teams on their schedules around the turn of the century, C. of E. also included games against much larger institutions.

"Many times the results were most favorable to the Presbies," the article stated.

In 1894, the C. of E. won two games against Kansas State Normal (now Emporia State University) and split two games with Washburn.

In the early 1900s, the Presby schedule included the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Fairmont (now Wichita State University), the University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University.

"The last game against one of these major institutions came in 1921, and resulted in a 7-7 tie with Oklahoma State," Shupe wrote.

In 1910, according to the article, the college and its cross-town rival, Kansas Normal School, started a tradition of playing a game against each other on Thanksgiving Day. Townspeople scheduled their holiday meals around the games, which kicked off at 2 p.m. at alternating home stadiums.

C. of E. won the first game of the series 9-0 and Kansas Normal (by then renamed Kansas State Teachers College) won the last in 1934 by a score of 12-6. Including the regular-season games as well as the Thanksgiving Day games, C. of E. compiled a 22-20-2 edge in the games against Kansas Normal, Shupe reported. (Emporia State University records show the series ended in a tie at 21-21-2.)

The College of Emporia

Part 2: Success of the 'Fighting Presbies'

DARK DAY

C. of E.'s football successes were marred in the 1930 Thanksgiving Day game, when freshman George Day of Hiawatha suffered a head injury about five minutes into the game. Day, a halfback, was blocking a punt return when his head collided with an opponent's knee.

He was carried into Mason Gymnasium, where Dr. Frank Foncannon examined him and ordered him taken to Newman Hospital. He underwent surgery doctors hoped would save his life, but he died at 8:55 p.m. that evening, according to the alumni association website.

For the first few years of football competition, "coaches" were plucked from other professions -- businessmen or faculty members who were interested in football but were trained for other careers.

PLAYER COACHES

It was not unusual in the early years, Shupe wrote, for the coach to be a member of the team.

"...(E)ligibility rules were almost non-existent, and those that were on the books were not enforced to any great extent." Bill Hargiss's hiring as coach of all sports signaled the beginning of a line of outstanding coaches.

Shupe's history described Hargiss -- one of the most famous Kansas Normal School athletes -- as a man of good character and equally skilled in football, basketball and track. Hargiss had earned 16 collegiate athletics letters in his four years as a student at Normal, which now is Emporia State University.

His Presby football teams compiled a 17-6-1 won-loss record during his three-year tenure, "to start the rich tradition of winning football teams that carried over through the 1960s." One of those games, the Thanksgiving Day game in 1926, between C. of E. and Kansas State Normal was played before a crowd of 10,000 fans. The game ended in a 0-0 tie, the Alumni Association website reported.

SUPER COACH

Hargiss went on to become coach at his alma mater, now re-named Kansas State Teachers College, in the 1920s. His successes there propelled him in 1928 to the head football coaching position at Kansas University, a position he held for five years; he also was K.U. track and field coach for 10 years.

Hargiss was "one of the most innovative coaches in college football history," according to the Alumni Association website. "He was one of the first coaches in the United States to use the forward pass, shift to an unbalanced line and use the T-formation and huddle while at College of Emporia." He was Presbies coach when they defeated Pittsburg State Normal 107 to 0.

Additionally, Hargiss coached five world record-holders in track -- John Kuck, Glenn Cunningham, Jim Bausch, Clyde Coffman and Peter Mehringer. Hargiss is a member of the NAIA Track and Field all of Game and the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

Hargiss had been succeeded at C. of E. by other outstanding coaches -- Gwinn Henry, Harold Grant, L.T. (Rosy) Harr, Wayne McConnell and Bill Schnebel -- who went on to produce championship Presby teams.

Henry's team compiled the first perfect season, winning all six games on the schedule and the first of several conference championships. At the time, the Kansas Conference included every college in the state, except the University of Kansas and Kansas State University, although C. of E. sometimes played the latter teams, too.

Henry followed that season with an even-better season in 1919. The Presbies won all eight games -- including a 14-0 win over the Normal School on Thanksgiving Day -- while giving up only six points the entire season, in a 34-6 win over Ottawa.

HARGISS, HENRY FACE OFF

Henry accepted the job of head coach at the University of Missouri at the end of the 1922

football season. As a result, from 1928 to 1931, two of C. of E.'s former head football coaches, Hargiss and Henry, faced each other as coaches in interstate rivalry games between Kansas and Missouri universities. Coach Harold Grant, who succeeded Henry and stayed for five years, had a double connection to C. of E. football.

Grant had starred as a player for Henry, Shupe wrote, and later as a coach, compiling a 34-4-1 record.

Coach Harr continued the winning tradition, taking the team to another 8-0 season, "which in itself was not unusual in C. of E. football annals," Shupe wrote.

"But that 1928 team accomplished what no other team had done before or since, in that it did not allow a single point to be scored against it all season." Bill Schnebel, who held the longest tenure as Presby coach, tallied a 71-21-1 record during his nine years in Emporia.

He received awarded the Little All-American Coach of the Year in both 1959 and 1962.

McConnell, with the second-best won-loss statistics, compiled a 40-12-1 record. However, all 12 of the losses came in just two seasons, as McConnell's teams went undefeated in four of his six years as coach. Records show that he, too, received the Knute Rockne Little All-American Coach of the Year award.

NOT QUITE INTRAMURALS

Lake Mergendahl also played its own role in competitions at the college. At the beginning of each year, freshmen and sophomore men -- and occasionally girls at the end of the line -- squared off in a tug-of-war across Lake Mergendahl.

The pond had been dug in the spring of 1912, to fulfill a Professor Schaffner's desire to have a place stocked with live fish and botanical specimens, according to a history series compiled by Minnie Miller and William Edwards and published in The Gazette in June 1982. The summer was so dry, however, that pond hole remained empty the following fall.

The College of Emporia

Part 2: Success of the 'Fighting Presbies'



"A student looking at it said that the place was as dry and forbidding as the tests of mathematics professor Mergendahl," the Miller-Edwards article stated. "The name stuck, and Lake Mergendahl it remained."

NATIONAL RUSHING LEADER

At least three C. of E. athletes went on to play professional sports. Bill Danenhauer, who graduated in 1956, was an NAIA Football All-American in both the 1953 and 1955 seasons. He was KCAC All-Conference in 1954 and 1955, co-captain of the 1954 and 1955 seasons, and played in the 1954 Mineral Water Bowl, which produced the team's first loss of the season.

The Baltimore Colts drafted Danenhauer in 1956, and he later played with the Denver Broncos and Boston Patriots in 1960. Lem Harkey, an All-Conference and All-American fullback, played on the team that went undefeated for three consecutive years. That year, he led the nation in rushing, with 168 yards per game; he averaged 130.9 yards per

game during his four-year college career, and gained 4,320 yards on 523 carries for an average of 8.2 yards per carry.

He was drafted in the sixth round by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1955 and played for the San Francisco 49ers for one year, Shupe wrote. Jim Jacquith, a blocking back from Council Grove, is listed as having played in 1926 for the Kansas City Cowboys professional football team.

BOTH SIDES OF THE COLLEGE

Many C. of E. football players were named NAIA All-Americans or Honorable Mention All-Americans, and were routinely selected for the all-conference teams in multiple sports.

Among those were Ray and Ron Ebberts of Tonovay, Kansas, who starred in sports at C. of E., then returned later in their careers to work at the college.

Ray, who graduated in 1956, came to C. of E. on a basketball scholarship, and lettered four years in both basketball and baseball. He

received honorable mention All-Conference honors in basketball and was chosen for the All-Conference first team in baseball.

He coached high school basketball at Lamont, Toronto and Emporia before returning to C. of E. as dean of students. He later was administrator and guidance counselor at Burlington. Although Tonovay High School had no football team, in the middle of Ron Ebberts' freshman season at C. of E., he started at right guard, a position he held through graduation in 1955. He was named All-Conference three years on undefeated KCAC championship teams &, in his senior year, the AP selected Ron Ebberts to first team Little All-American.

After serving as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, he returned to help coach the Presbies to the 1959 KAC Championship.

After two more years of coaching and continuing as a college instructor, Ron Ebberts in 1970 became the 16th and last president of the College of Emporia.

The surge of baby boomers attending colleges and universities in the 1960s had pushed C. of E.'s enrollment numbers to record levels. When the wave of baby boomers subsided, the college found itself struggling with dramatically decreased enrollment while simultaneously saddled with an insurmountable debt.

Ebberts shepherded C. of E. through to its closing at the end of the 1973 fall semester and the subsequent foreclosure by creditors and sale.

On Thursday, Part III will focus on the college's growth and record enrollment numbers.

The College of Emporia

Part 3: The Booming Glory Days

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles about the former College of Emporia, a private Presbyterian institution that operated here from 1883 through 1973. Alumni will be in Emporia this weekend for their annual reunion, related tours and activities.

By Bobbi Mlynar
Special to The Gazette

Emporia and its citizens embraced the College of Emporia for decades — from an 1877 proposal to establish a Presbyterian college until the college closed at the end of 1973.

Salina, Peabody and Marion, in addition to Emporia, were under consideration as possible locations for the college until the City of Emporia offered the Presbyterian Synod of Kansas a package deal — \$35,000 and 38 acres of land — which was accepted in 1882.

The Rev. Robert Overstreet, then pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Emporia and chairman of the Synod's Education Committee, was put in charge of raising a \$50,000 endowment fund that succeeded in a short time, and C. of E. was on its way to becoming a reality.

Sen. Preston B. Plumb, one of the city founders, donated \$2,000 to the endowment fund and became a member of the board of trustees. Community support followed, as leaders acknowledged the direct benefit to the community, as well as the auxiliary benefit of being known as a town that valued education.

The State of Kansas in 1863 had established the Kansas Normal School at 12th Avenue and Commercial Street, a mile or so east of the newly authorized College of Emporia campus.

Emporian Sharon Spencer Stewart, a C. of E. alumna and long-time teacher in Emporia's public schools, speculated that having two colleges in one small city likely was a great advantage to the town's success.

"Bringing in an extra 600 to 1,500 students in itself is going to contribute to the economy," Stewart said, "and I suppose that's also one reason why William Allen White referred to



this as the Athens of Kansas, because there were two colleges here."

White had moved from El Dorado to Emporia to attend C. of E. from 1884 through 1886, then went on to finish his degree at the University of Kansas.

White supported C. of E. throughout his life, with his voice as a newspaper editor and publisher and with his time and money. From 1914 until his death in 1944, he was a member of the C. of E. board of trustees and, from 1919 to 1931, lectured there in journalism.

Stewart's father and mother, Dr. Harold and Margaret Spencer, showed a similar loyalty and passed it on to their daughter. As a student, Harold Spencer had worked at the dairy northwest of the campus.

"Every morning, as part of his paying for college, he had to get up and go over and milk & cows," Stewart said, then take the milk to a designated location before going to classes at C. of E..

"My parents met there," she said. "My dad was on the board of trustees and later my mother was."

The board's membership list from the beginning consistently represented a broad sampling of leaders not only community-wide, but often statewide and nationally.

In the Emporia area, C. of E. turned out many graduates who stayed in town, became leaders of the community and often returned to serve on the board of trustees.

Among those were Joe Morris, chief executive officer of Columbia Savings and Loan; Dr. David R. Davis, pediatrician; Dr. Stanley L. VanderVelde, surgeon; Elvin Perkins, attorney, city commissioner, mayor, and co-founder of the Emporia Community Foundation; Kermit Oakes, owner of the Credit Bureau of East Central Kansas; and many more.

"A lot of the teachers went to C. of E.," Stewart added.

CONSTRUCTION BOOM

Construction on campus often was underway as student populations and needs burgeoned.

Classes initially had been held in the Addis Building at Sixth Avenue and Commercial Street, beginning Nov. 1, 1883, and in another building at Eighth Avenue and Commercial

The College of Emporia

Part 3: The Booming Glory Days



Street until 1886, when classes moved to a still-unfinished Stuart Hall, the first building constructed on the campus.

When the Presbyterian Lewis Academy of Wichita closed, the name of the preparatory school transferred to the prep school at C. of E., according to a C. of E. history published in a tabloid section of *The Gazette* in August 1987.

In 1914, the academy at C. of E. closed, and money realized from the sale of the Lewis Academy in Wichita was used to begin building Lewis Hall of Science on campus.

Funds for the Mason Gymnasium building in 1912 came, in large part, from the Mason family in honor of their son, Frank, a C. of E. alumnus.

Emporia Hall, the first dormitory for women (and later used for men), dated from 1913, when C. of E. first made the list of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities, the history section recorded.

Along with the construction boom and growing student and staff populations came focus on strengths.

In 1914, C. of E. had more than 20 graduates serving in the mission field.

That same year, Daniel Hirschler began a long and noteworthy career as head of C. of E.'s music department.

"Each spring he gave a music festival," the tabloid-section history stated. "Once the New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Walter Damrosch played while the C. of E. Chorus sang Mendelssohn's 'Oratorio of St. Paul.'"

'THE GLORY DAYS'

Fredrick W. Lewis took over as president in 1917. Lewis, who had graduated from Princeton, was the son of H.W. Lewis of Wichita, for whom Lewis Academy had been named.

Lewis's presidency ushered in what was known as "the Glory Days of C. of E.," the tabloid history stated.

Enrollment reached almost 500 and by the end of 1928, when he left, the college was debt-free.

That year, the administration building was enhanced with an addition of a "handsome facade," paid for from the estate of J.S. Kenyon, of the furniture and undertaking firm of Hardcastle and Kenyon. The building, which had been started in 1917 after fire destroyed Stuart Hall, was known thereafter as Kenyon Hall.

It had seemed the college would continue on an upward trajectory; however, those hopes were dashed when the Great Depression struck the nation.

Within only a few years, President John Baily Kelly, who took over from Lewis in 1929, was forced to eliminate the jobs of some faculty members and to reduce the salaries of others.

"Why didn't the faculty leave?" the tabloid questioned. "Really, there was no place to go. All small denominational colleges suffered the same way."

Unemployment was high in all areas of the country.

The college had not yet recovered when Hirschler, who had become Dean, was offered a job as professor of organ and music theory at Kansas University.

"He refused, saying it would be like deserting a sick child who needed nurture," the tabloid history reported.

Hirschler took over as president during the war years and for a time after when prospects again improved.

The Depression was over, men had returned from fighting and Hirschler managed to balance the budget, paying off the college's debts, increasing the endowment fund, raising faculty salaries and setting up a faculty retirement plan.

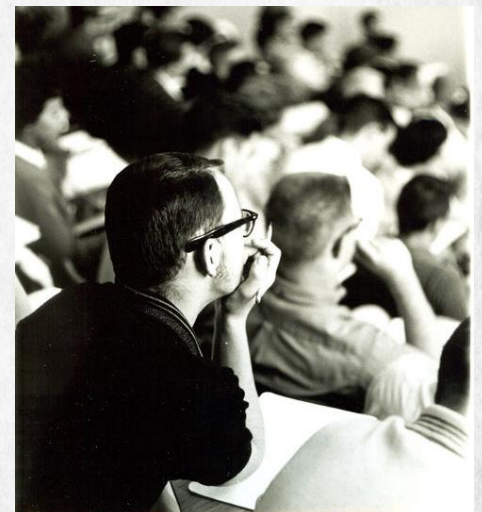
"After the war, enrollment quickly went from 100 to 300," a tabloid story recounted.

A plaque mounted outside the president's office contained the name of all of the C. of E. men who had served in World War II.

Soon, the college added an art department with Helen Eppink at its head.

Hirschler had a heart attack in 1947 and was disabled until his death in 1955.

"He had literally given his life for the College," the tabloid history reported.



The College of Emporia

Part 3: The Booming Glory Days

CONTINUING THE UPSWING

During those post-war years, as College of Emporia continued to grow, so did the City of Emporia.

Students and staff benefited from ever-strengthening academic programs and the city saw the benefits that the growing campus inherently created. From both an economic and an entertainment aspect through sports and the arts, the College of Emporia enhanced the city's quality of life.

President Luther Sharpe, who led the college from 1952 to 1960, oversaw another period of growth, this time including buildings.

A private donor financed Bovaird Stadium; Mabee Science Hall was built by the Mabee Foundation. Voller Dormitory for Men was built in 1957.

Lewis Hall of Science, deemed too small and too outdated, was demolished.

The building boom continued well into the 1960s, as the campus filled with record numbers of students.

Devore Campus Center opened in 1965, and the Laughlin-Lewis Library was dedicated in 1967.

The library was state-of-the-art, the tabloid history reported, and replaced the historic Anderson Memorial Library, which was converted into a campus art center.

The library was financed by a long-term government loan that had required C. of E. to change from a Synod-owned college to a private institution "bearing a covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Synod of Kansas."

Payments still were being made on the loan when the college closed, the tabloid history reported.

EAST COAST INFLUX

The next president, Francis Walters, stayed only for the 1961-62 school year, but his legacy affected the college tremendously for the next several years.

According to the 1987 tabloid historical account, Walters set off a significant increase in enrollment by bringing in students who were not able to get into Eastern U.S. colleges.

"It was only incidental if any of these were Presbyterians," the history stated.

The large enrollments continued during the 1960s, until young adults born during the 1945-1950 "baby boom" had passed through college.

Stewart said that part of the stunning enrollment increase might also be attributed to the growing instability in North and South Vietnam, and the military draft that existed at the time. Young men usually were able to get draft deferments if they were attending college in good standing.

The Rev. Richard Hanna, a former Emporian, served one year as president after Walters moved on; and was followed by the Rev. Joseph R. Laughlin, who was president from 1962 through 1969.

Enrollment had easily surpassed 1,000 early in the decade.

C. of E.'s building boom continued well into the 1960s, as the campus filled.

BEGINNING OF THE END

Within a few years, all colleges nationwide had expanded enough to accommodate the growing numbers of the college - age population and the influx of East Coast united states students dwindled and disappeared.

Enrollment dropped precipitously to 631 in the 1971-72 school year and to 510 in 1972-73.

President Barkev Kibarian served from 1969 through 1971, and was followed by Ronald A. Ebberts, who took over from 1971-1973.

Heavy debt, an empty endowment fund, and an awkward temporary use of a donor's fund combined with other forces to cause C. of E.'s doors to close at the end of the fall semester in 1973.

On Friday, Part IV will focus on the collapse of the college, its sale, and subsequent uses.



The College of Emporia

Part 4: Falling on Hard Times: The End of C. of E.

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles about the former College of Emporia, a private Presbyterian institution that operated here from 1883 through 1973. Alumni will be in Emporia this weekend for their annual reunion, related tours and activities.

**By Bobbi Mlynar
Special to The Gazette**

The booms in enrollment, programs and buildings that had flourished in the 1960s faded away quickly as the 1970s decade began.

According to a history of the College of Emporia published by The Gazette in a tabloid section Aug. 24, 1987, enrollment was well over 1,000 students in 1966 and hovered around that level until 1970.

"Students from the East continued to attend the college," the article stated, explaining part of the increase.

The resulting demand for housing prompted the college to arrange for student rooms off-campus, in the former Broadview Hotel at Sixth Avenue and Merchant Street and in a large brick building on South Prairie that previously had been a home for elderly people. Small groups of students also found homes to rent in town.

Other buildings sprang up on campus. The DeVore Campus Center had been built in 1965 between Dunlap Hall and Mason Gymnasium.

Laughlin-Lewis Library, just west of Kenyon Hall, was added, financed by a long-term government loan. The loan required the college to change from a Synod-owned college to a private institution bearing a covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Synod of Kansas.

ENROLLMENT EBBS

By the time the "baby boom" students had graduated, all colleges were competing for a reduced number of students, the tabloid article stated. New colleges had sprung up and existing colleges had expanded enough to accommodate the still-elevated numbers of baby-boomers after the first, and larger, wave had graduated.

As student numbers began to dwindle, Dr. Barkev Kibarian assumed the presidency from 1969 through 1971; Ronald A. Ebberts succeeded him from 1971 through 1973.

Enrollment at C. of E. dropped to 631 in 1971-72 and to 510 in 1972-73. Administrators slashed some department budgets while expanding others as they

attempted to find a solution to the rapidly escalating financial emergency.

The million-dollar Wallingford challenge had ended successfully in 1972, and had allowed a reorganization of administrative staff, reduced expenses and introduction of several "new and innovative study programs," an Oct. 30, 1972, Gazette article reported.

The possibility of a merger was rumored and held a grain of truth.

The Oct. 30 story included an announcement from Elvin D. Perkins, then board of trustees chairman, saying "that the college has not contemplated any plan to merge with another college."

Southwestern College officials had inquired a few weeks earlier whether C. of E. would be interested in merging, he said.

"But no details were given as to what they had in mind," Perkins was quoted as saying, "so there was little or no discussion of the matter."

MUSIC BECAME MINOR

The college and the community were surprised when C. of E. administrators sliced deeply into one of C. of E.'s most high-profile and successful programs.

"Three years ago, the Music Department was riding high," Gazette Managing Editor Ray Call wrote in an editorial on Dec. 8, 1973.

"The department had just presented The Beatitudes featuring Stan Kenton (who came to Emporia twice without charge).

"Clark Terry was here. The C. of E. singers made successful concert tours across the country."

At that time, there were 55 students majoring in music at C. of E.

However, the editorial noted, music departments are not economical by nature, because of the amount of one-on-one time students spend with faculty.



The College of Emporia

Part 4: Falling on Hard Times: The End of C. of E.

By 1973, only eight music majors remained.

"There is a feeling among the faculty that the Music Department has been thrown to the wolves," Call wrote.

While the music department withered, the naturopathy program blossomed.

"Most Emporians do not even know what naturopathy is," Call stated.

By the time the first semester of the 1973-74 year ended just before the end of 1973, trustees had decided to close the college, with just over 400 students enrolled.

PAYROLL DELAYED

Frantic efforts to stave off the closing had failed, as would attempts to pay off debts and to raise funds to start a new college or resurrect the old one.

Chief Administrative Officer Robert Prins had announced in late November that faculty and staff paychecks would be delayed, possibly as much as two weeks, a Nov. 30, 1973, Gazette article stated.

Officials launched a drive to raise funds for November and December payrolls less than two weeks later.

A Board of Trustees meeting was planned on Dec. 22 to discuss financial problems.

The College of Emporia was more than \$1 million in debt.

Even the Presbyterian Synod of Kansas had drastically cut its promised \$35,000 annual support. The sum had been trimmed modestly for two years, and was to be cut to \$10,000 per year. The Synod stipulated that if C. of E. supporters asked for donations from individual Kansas churches, the Synod would not give even the \$10,000, according to an article in the Dec. 6, 1973, Gazette. At the time, the Synod was supporting several colleges in Kansas.

Coupled with heavy debt from the building boom and the decline in enrollment, the Myrta

Lee Memorial Chapel, which opened in 1972, had seemed to signal a death knell for C. of E.

"The funds donated for this purpose had been used for collateral to secure money to run the college," the 1987 tabloid article stated, "but the donors insisted that the chapel be built with the money.

"The endowment had been spent to run the college, faculty salaries were in arrears, a quick appeal for funds failed and there was no money. C. of E. had fought its last fight and lost."

C. of E. leaders had misjudged not only the depth of the financial crisis, but the college's ability to raise funds.

The City of Emporia, the Chamber of Commerce and other groups also looked for possible solutions and found none.

STUDENTS, FACULTY FUNDRAISE

By December 1974, students and faculty had abandoned Herculean efforts to raise \$500,000 by the end of that year and perhaps buy the campus. In mid-December, student organizer Douglas Pickering said about \$40,000 had been raised, the tabloid history reported.

"...(B)ut even if the \$500,000 figure were met, there would be no guarantee that the school could continue operations," Mr. Pickering was quoted as saying.

Students and faculty also had considered beginning their own core college, once C. of E. closed. That plan also was not to be.

Only 213 students had pre-enrolled for the spring semester, and that number was not adequate to support the college.

The final formal graduation ceremony took place on Dec. 16, 1973, with 26 students receiving their diplomas.

Recruiters from other colleges and universities were on the C. of E. campus the following day, attempting to enroll students.

Kansas State Teachers College offered plans to aid C. of E. students who had planned to graduate at the end of the 1974 spring semester. Special students, such as those who were in the military and completing degree programs, also would be served. Many of the students did transfer to KSTC.

CREDITORS CLOSE IN

In late March 1974, former chief administrative officer Prins was in charge of selling assets and raising money to pay creditors.

Letters had been sent to solicit funds from alumni and friends of the college, which brought in \$18,155.53 in gifts to the general fund.

Another \$17,979.92 was raised for the faulty welfare fund, and \$14,814.55 had been turned in to accounts receivable.

Prins announced that 36 of the creditors holding unsecured debts had donated their bills totaling \$3,578.53, according to a March 27, 1974, article.

Two estates had included C. of E. as a beneficiary of some funds, and those were being handled by the college's attorney.

An employee had pledged \$2,350, and two anonymous donors had given \$5,500 to repay students who had already pre-paid fees for what would have been the spring semester.

STILL, THE EFFORT FELL SHORT.

With no money to repay its large debts on schedule and unable to create a longer-term proposal acceptable to creditors, two major creditors petitioned Lyon County District Court to force C. of E. to sell its property in order to pay the money due.

LOYAL TO THE END

While the legal action played out in court, when graduation time came in May of 1974, seniors were given a choice: they could receive

The College of Emporia

Part 4: Falling on Hard Times: The End of C. of E.

their diplomas from KSTC, or they could receive them from the defunct College of Emporia, The Gazette 1987 tabloid history recounted.

Forty-three chose KSTC and “22 held out for C. of E.” Two of the “hold-outs” — Terry Nyce, senior class president, and Debbie Pollack, student body president — decided to stage a traditional ceremony at C. of E. With the help of others, they succeeded.

“On May 18, the traditional Senior-Faculty Breakfast was held at Forren’s Restaurant,” the tabloid account reported. “That afternoon, the parents and friends of the Class of 1974 gathered in Kenyon Hall for the 86th and last C. of E. Commencement.”

After the organ prelude, faculty members and 22 seniors wearing caps and gowns marched down the aisle to “Pomp and Circumstance.”

A “Mr. Paige” gave the commencement address, the report stated; Marvin Schadt, academic dean, presented the seniors; and Glen Hutchison, chairman of the board of trustees, conferred the degrees on the last graduates of the College of Emporia.

TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER

Less than two months later, in early July 1974, the college was sold at a sheriff’s auction at the Lyon County Courthouse. Eight of C. of E.’s buildings and most of the campus property brought a total of \$549,105.77. Contents of the buildings had been sold in several auctions earlier that year.

Although approximately 100 people attended the auction conducted by then-Lyon County Sheriff Daniel Andrews, the two creditors’ joint bid was the only offer tendered.

The new owners, Eureka Federal Savings and Loan of Emporia and General Savings of Mission, had been the college’s primary creditors and had filed the suit to force the sale.

The sale figure covered C. of E.’s remaining debt to those financial institutions, plus

14-percent interest accumulated since the previous June, according to a Gazette article on July 3, 1974.

Representatives of Eureka Federal and General Savings immediately began negotiations to re-sell the property to Child Evangelism Fellowship of Michigan, which had been negotiating for several months with the C. of E. board of trustees to buy the college.

Negotiations stalled, and soon the campus was purchased by The Way International, a biblical study and ministry group that had been organized and overseen by the Rev. Victor Paul Wierwille, a United Church of Christ minister.

The Way International operated the campus as The Way College of Emporia from 1975 until the organization closed the campus in 1989.

STILL AN ASSET TO EMPORIA

By 1991, several Emporia investors as well as religious groups began purchasing pieces of the old college.

Some buildings were sold, remodeled or renovated and put to new uses, and several open spaces were filled.

Sterling House (now Brookdale) built a new assisted living home on the I2th Avenue side of the campus; Dr. Marlin Flanagan added a brick building to house his dental practice;

and the City of Emporia installed a small park with a winding sidewalk past Lake Mergendahl, dug originally as an outdoor laboratory for the science department as well as the site of annual tugs-of-war between freshmen and sophomore students. The C. of E. Alumni Association added an engraved stone bench at the northeast corner of the park, to commemorate the college.

The Laughlin-Lewis Library, dedicated in 1967, became home to the National Teachers Hall of Fame for a few years, and later was converted into the Emporia Child Care Center.

Mabee Science Hall became the Emporia Christian School, complete with a well-equipped playground.

Across C. of E. Drive to the west, Vollmer Hall men’s dormitory was purchased by Birch Telecommunication. It now houses the offices of Emporia’s Radio Stations on the second floor and professional offices on the first.

Kenyon Hall and its chapel, which had been thoroughly renovated by The Way, was sold to the Rock of Life Church. It fell into disuse and disrepair after the church left. The roof deteriorated and allowed water to invade the interior. Vandals, perhaps aided by two severe hail storms, broke out windows on all sides, provoking additional weather damage on the inside.



The College of Emporia

Part 4: Falling on Hard Times: The End of C. of E.



The stately old building awoke to a new life, however, when contractors and developers Mitchell-Markowitz LLC., purchased it in 2006.

The company gutted and completely remodeled the interior and restored the exterior at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million to turn Kenyon Hall into Kenyon Heights, an attractive and affordable apartments for people 55 years and older.

On the Chestnut Street side of the campus, the Devore Campus Center, which opened in 1965, was owned and occupied for many years by the Emporia American Legion Post 5. It since has been purchased by Birch Telecommunication, which has filled the building with offices and employees.

C. of E.'s magnificent bell had fallen from the heights of Stuart Hall during the Dec. 2, 1915, fire that destroyed the building. It had come perilously close to crushing then-President Henry Coe Culbertson and Dean Daniel Schaffner, who had entered the burning building in an attempt to save school records. The bell crashed to the floor, narrowly missing the men.

The bell stood on a pedestal between the administration building and the Anderson Library for years, until it was moved to a permanent home in the courtyard of the Emporia Public Library, along with the plaques from World Wars I and II.

More than 100 C. of E. graduates gathered in the courtyard in May 1984 to celebrate the 55th reunion of the Class of 1929 and to dedicate the Stuart Hall Bell Memorial, which was designed by Emporia architect J. Trevor Lewis.

Anderson Library, the first Carnegie library west of the Mississippi and the first Carnegie library on a college campus, is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Emporians Earl Sauder and Joe Cannon had purchased it and donated it to Emporia State University, which utilized it for archives for 17 years. When the archives were moved, the vacated building deteriorated and also sustained water damage.

It now is under renovation by a small group of Emporians — John Mallon and his son, Justin, of Evergreen Design Build, and orthodontist Dr. Stephen Haught — who purchased Anderson to prevent its demolition.

John Mallon explained their reasoning in a Gazette story on April 2 of this year.

“We found out a guy was looking at purchasing it, documenting it and tearing it down,” Mallon said. **“Selling the stained glass windows, the beautiful limestone columns and basically leveling it. ... (A)t that point, Justin and I kind of looked at each other and say, ‘We really can’t let that happen.’”**

The project is nearing completion, and Mallon said that the Anderson dome, where so many C. of E. seniors signed their names for posterity, remains in good condition. Some of the names had been painted over when The Way International owned the campus. The names remaining are recorded as “People of the Dome” on the Emporia State website, www.emporia.edu/libsv/archives/the-people-of-the-dome/

An anonymous poem explained the signatures and their significance:

“Climb the stairs to the wooden dome and sign your name for all to see. So that those who follow may remember still, “The glorious days of C. of E.”

On Saturday, Part 5 of the C. of E. series will focus on the Alumni Association and members’ ongoing efforts to keep the college’s memory alive, including helping other young men and women earn college educations.

The College of Emporia

Part 5: Alumni Keep the Spirit Alive

Editor's Note: This is the last in a five-part series of articles about the former College of Emporia, a private Presbyterian institution that operated here from 1883 through 1973. Alumni are in Emporia this weekend for their annual reunion, related tours and activities.

By Bobbi Mlynar
Special to The Gazette

The association's 28-member board of directors met Friday morning, with many traveling in from across the country.

The reunion agenda is packed with activities — a pre-event golf tournament Friday morning; a pizza to re-create the atmosphere of Pete's Parlor, which had been a popular gathering place for eating and dancing when the college was open; a tour of the campus; a bus tour of Emporia guided by local historian Roger Heineken; catered meals at the Granada

keep the College of Emporia heritage alive, not only for themselves but for others.

Long-time Emporia teacher Sharon Spencer Stewart said those involved in sports — especially football and basketball — “really did feel a closeness to each other and have stayed in touch.

“And when you read some of the things they've written, it is important to them to get together,” Stewart said.



Although the College of Emporia closed almost 43 years ago, the seeds of relationships planted decades ago continue to bloom among members of the C. of E. Alumni Association and its friends.

Reunion activities for the group began the evening of Friday, July 1, and will continue through the weekend. The basement of the former Kenyon Hall, now Kenyon Heights Apartments, is serving as a central hub for those who attend.

Theatre; a business meeting with introduction of scholarship winners; and more.

“It's amazing we have 200 people that are coming back, that are registered for the reunion,” said C. of E. alumna Maxine Mitchell, who graduated in 1954. “Even those from all over the country that came and were here just a few years feel some kind of a kinship that keeps them coming back.”

Through the reunions, newsletters and scholarships, the alumni have found ways to

Another Emporia district teacher, Clarence Howland, who came to C. of E. from Troy said relationships may have been strengthened because students stayed on-campus most of the school year.

“We were there for a semester; you know, we went home at Christmas,” Howland said. “Today, they've got cars, they've got money, they go home for the weekend. So you don't have the closeness you had in the '50s.” The size of the college also was a factor.

The College of Emporia

Part 5: Alumni Keep the Spirit Alive

“We were just a little small family college, and so we’re still a family, enjoying life,” Howland said.

Those relationships perhaps were a motivation for alumni to organize, not only for reunions to maintain contact with their friends, but to perpetuate the memory of their alma mater and to help young students further their education through annual scholarships.

FIRST ASSOCIATION FORMED

The College of Emporia Alumni Association began about two years after the closing in December 1973.

“On Dec. 10, they had a Christmas vespers, and that was the last event at the college,” Howland said. “And then 14 days later, Christmas Eve, they foreclosed on the college.”

Howland said an alumni association had not existed before the closing. However, within two years, interested alumni had created a formal association, with a constitution and by-laws and 501(c)(3) status.

Interest was high and money to support the group’s purposes began coming in, he said. By 1977, the association had set up an endowment fund at Sterling College, another Presbyterian-affiliated institution that initially housed some of the C. of E. records.

Soon, the association became active in regaining control of the right to C. of E.’s educational essence.

The Way International, a religious ministry that bought the campus, also seemed to have gained the rights to use the C. of E. logo and educational reputation.

The college’s two largest creditors — Eureka Savings and Loan of Emporia and General Savings of Mission — in July 1974 had purchased most of the campus property at a sheriff’s auction forced after the foreclosure.

The sale price for the college had been \$549,105.77, the amount of C. of E. debt

remaining to those institutions, plus 14 percent interest accumulated since June 1973.

C. of E. leaders had realized the closing was inevitable and had attempted to make arrangements to sell the campus and repay the debt before the foreclosure. However, negotiations with the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Michigan were unsuccessful.

Howland said talks to join the campus with Park College in Missouri also had been unsuccessful because of C. of E.’s overwhelming debt load.

Consequently, the two creditors gained ownership of the campus and sold it to The Way International, which operated as The Way College of Emporia from 1975 until 1989, when the organization closed the campus.

AFFRONT TO ALUMNI

The Way’s apparent attempt to claim C. of E.’s history and reputation, along with its campus and buildings, created an intolerable situation for alumni.

“As soon as The Way came in, then they would send out transcripts with ‘The Way College of Emporia’ on them, founded in 1882,” said Howland, who has compiled a history of C. of E. and gives presentations on the topic for organizations in the area.

“That was kind of their logo. With Elvin Perkins, we went to court and got that changed.”

Perkins, also a C. of E. alumnus and former chairman of its board of trustees, had stayed in Emporia to establish his law practice.

In January 1981, the association set up another endowment fund, this time at Emporia State University, which now houses most of the C. of E. records.

A third scholarship also has been established, the Alumni Scholarship Fund, which awards six \$2,000 scholarships annually. Howland has been chairman of that scholarship committee for about 20 years.

As the funds grew, guidelines to qualify for scholarships were expanded.”

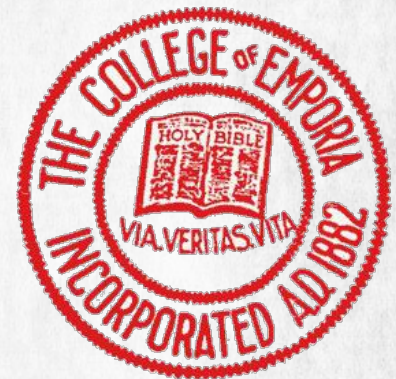
Anyone that has an association with the College of Emporia is eligible,” Howland said.

Donations to the scholarship funds have been consistent and generous through the years, despite the absence of a formal campus. The three combined funds give away about \$20,000 in scholarships every year, Howland said.

Descendants of former students, faculty members or staff are eligible to apply for the awards.

Members of the 28-member association board meet twice annually, in January and in June, with a majority of members attending.

“I keep telling, if we’d have had an alumni association the last few years when (the college) was active, we could have probably saved it,” Howland said.





• COLLEGE OF EMPORIA SIGN 1974 •



• KENYON HALL 1974 •



• ANDERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1977 •



• STUART HALL BELL 1974 •



• NEW HOME FOR THE COLLEGE BELL AT EMPORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY 1984 •



• C OF E CAMPUS CHAPEL 1973 •



• FRANK GREY MASON GYM 1974 •



• ANDERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1974 •

COLLEGE OF EMPORIA



MASON GYM



EAST SIDE MEN'S DORM 1992



MABEE SCIENCE HALL 1977



SNOW DAY ON CAMPUS 1971



DEVORE STUDENT CENTER 1974



DUNLAP HALL 1974

C. OF E. ATHLETICS



HARR. BERGER. MUIR. BRATTON. DE BOLT. TAKUMI. BAYLESS. MEEK. HETJMANEK.
KUKUK. GIBBONS. HAUN. CRISS. STANTON

• C. OF E. BASEBALL TEAM 1929 •

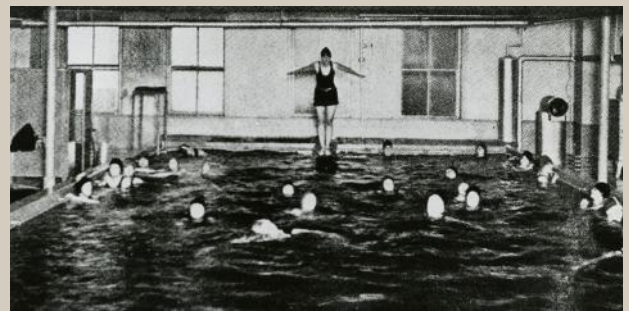


Mason Gymnasium, College of Emporia,
Emporia, Kansas.

• FRANK GRAY MASON GYM 1913 •



• SCHAFFNER GYMNASIUM 1910 •



• INDOOR SWIMMING POOL IN THE BASEMENT OF
MASON GYM 1930 •



• C OF E FOOTBALL STADIUM 1968 •

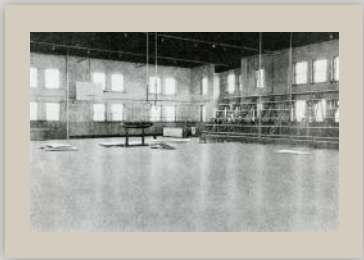


• C. OF E. TENNIS COURTS 1930 •



RAUSCHER. GRANGER. ALTMAN. MARKLEY. HENDERSON. CHASE. RUSSELL. SCHABINGER. COACH
HARGISS. COBURN. AITKEN

• C. OF E. BASEBALL TEAM 1913 •



• BASKETBALL COURT 1922 •



• C. OF E. BASEBALL TEAM 1914 •



• LOOKING NORTH MASON GYM •



• 2ND FLOOR OF MASON'S GYM •



• DRESSING ROOM. MASON GYM •

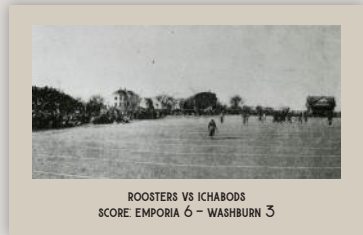


BAINRIDGE. CRANE. WILHITE. STALEY. FITTS. GRANGER. ENGLE. AITKEN. SCHABINGER.
LEWIS. WILLIS. RUSSELL

• C. OF E. BASEBALL TEAM 1910 •



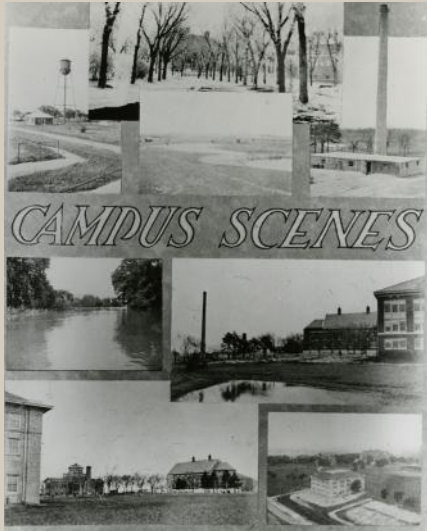
• THE FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE
TUG-O-WAR 1925 •



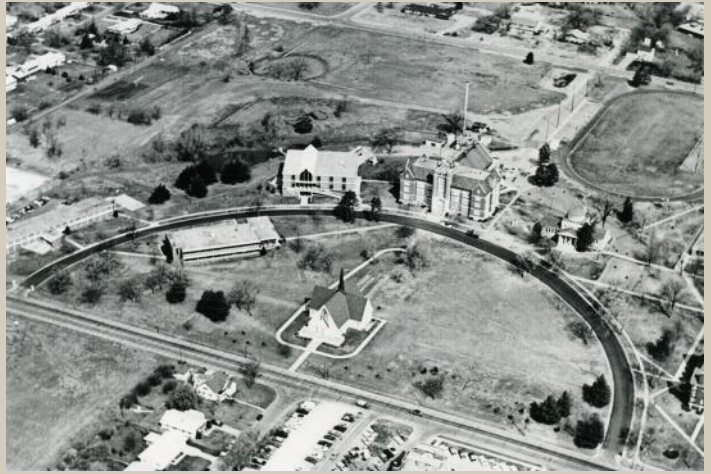
ROOSTERS VS ICHABODS
SCORE: EMPORIA 6 - WASHBURN 3

• COLLEGE OF EMPORIA FOOTBALL GAME 1922 •

C. OF E. CAMPUS



CAMPUS SCENES OF THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA 1919



AERIAL VIEW OF THE CAMPUS OF COLLEGE OF EMPORIA



CAMPUS SCENES OF THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA 1919



AERIAL VIEW OF THE CAMPUS LOOKING NORTH



COLLEGE OF EMPORIA CAMPUS SCENE 1922



EAST GATE ENTRANCE TO THE CAMPUS OF C. OF E.



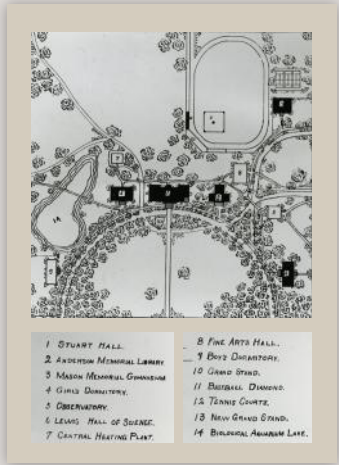
STUART HALL ON THE CAMPUS OF COLLEGE OF EMPORIA



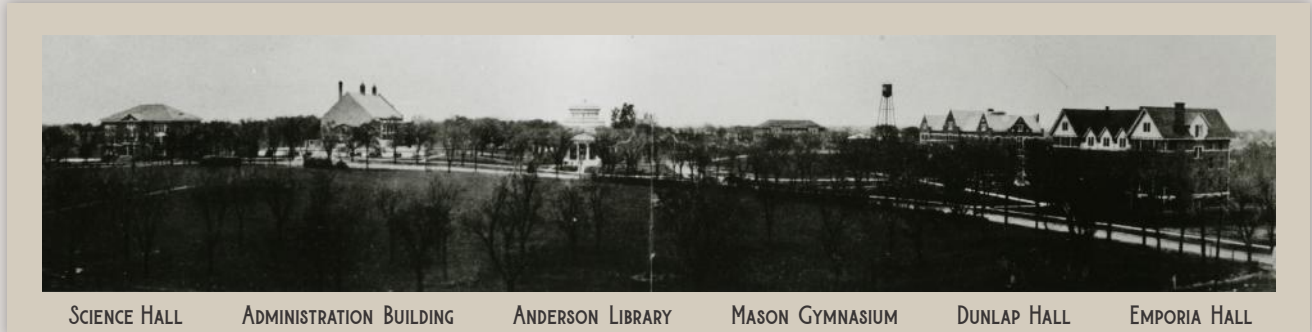
DUNLAP HALL ON CAMPUS OF THE C. OF E. 1929



AERIAL VIEW OF THE CAMPUS LOOKING NORTHWEST

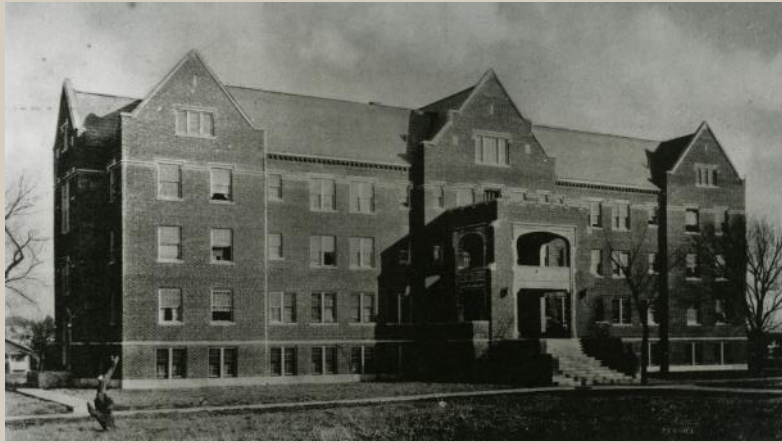


MAP OF THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA CAMPUS 1915



SCIENCE HALL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ANDERSON LIBRARY MASON GYMNASIUM DUNLAP HALL EMPORIA HALL

THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA AS IT LOOKED IN THE FALL OF 1925



GIRLS DORMITORY - C. OF E.



STUDY HALL C. OF E. 1940



VIEW OF CAMPUS SHOWING EAST GATE 1933



EMPORIA HALL - C. OF E. 1930

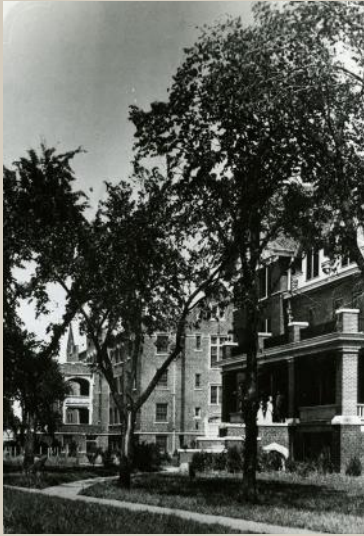


LEWIS HALL OF SCIENCE - C. OF E.



EMPORIA HALL AT C OF E 1929

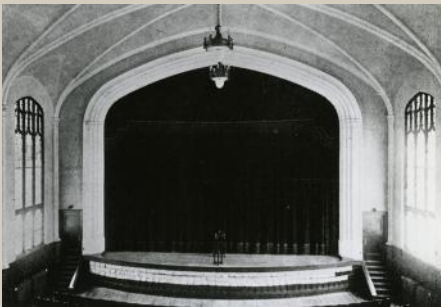
BUILDINGS OF C. OF E.



DUNLAP & EMPORIA HALL AT C. OF E. 1930



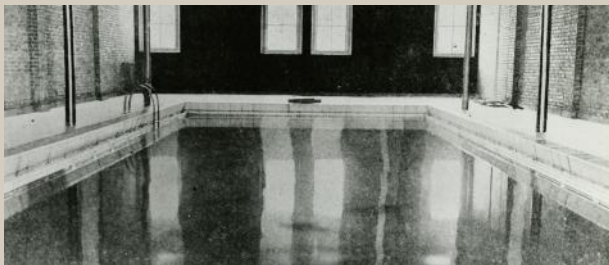
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



THE STAGE IN THE AUDITORIUM 1918



EMPORIA HALL - C. OF E. CAMPUS

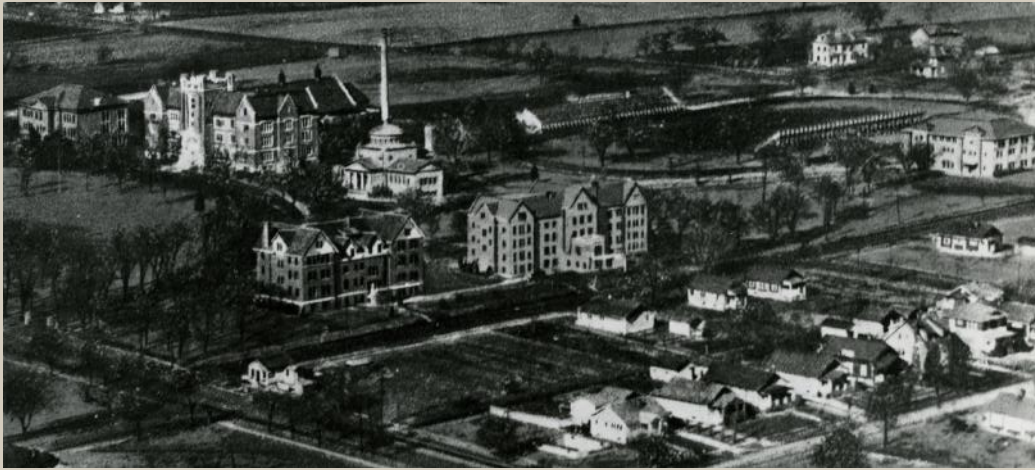


SWIMMING POOL IN THE MASON GYM 1922



INTERIOR OF THE ANDERSON LIBRARY 1918

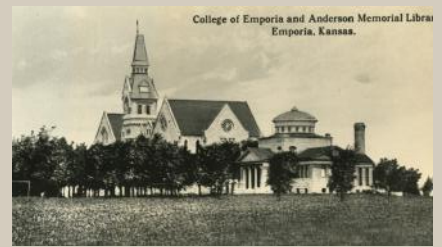
COLLEGE OF EMPORIA



AERIAL VIEW OF THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA 1940



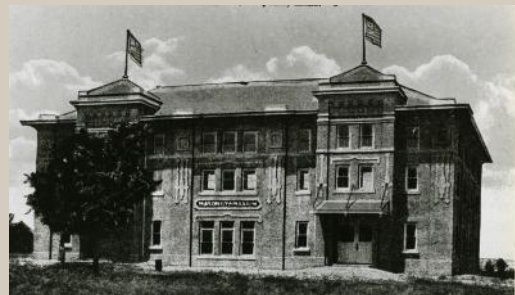
CLASS-MATES FOREVER GRADUATION DAY 1937



STUART HALL & THE ANDERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY



EMPORIA HALL AT C. OF E. 1920



LOOKING NORTH AT THE FRANK GREY MASON GYMNASIUM



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING COLLEGE OF EMPORIA



CLASS BEING HELD OUTSIDE ON THE C. OF E. CAMPUS 1937



GIRLS DORMITORY & MASON GYM AT C. OF E. 1913



LEWIS HALL OF SCIENCE



EAST ENTRANCE TO THE C. OF E. CAMPUS 1914



RUINS OF STUART HALL FROM THE FIRE ON CAMPUS OF COLLEGE OF EMPORIA - DECEMBER 2ND 1915

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