

Fort Hays continues to show growth

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Fort Hays State University continues to show strong growth, and Dr. Edward H. Hammond, president was in Goodland Tuesday to talk about the university plans to continue the growth in the future.

Hammond said the began trying to grow to the 10,000 student level eight years ago, and the head count had reached 10,107 this fall. He said this was two years ahead of the goal of having 10,000 in 2010.

He said this growth has been in the face of reductions in state financial aid, and that Fort Hays has been able to increase enrollment and use several efficiencies to help lower operational costs and keep the tuition and fees as reasonable as possible for the students.

Hammond presented a chart showing how the university has been working to hold tuition costs down over the past six years. The chart shows that Fort Hays cut the cost

per credit hour from \$249 in 2002 to a low of \$202 in 2005. He said the cost has risen a bit in the past two years, but the credit hour cost is \$11 below what it was six years ago at \$238.



Hammond

In comparison Hammond shows figures that the other major universities in the state have increased tuition costs by more than 25 percent with the University of Kansas cost increasing by 28.2 percent and Kansas State University increasing by 24.8 percent.

Fort Hays offered the lowest tuition and fees in Kansas eight years ago, and statistics provided by the Kansas Regents office show the gap has widened over the last six years. Tuition and fees for an undergraduate, resident student this year are \$1,678 at Fort Hays, which is \$285 less than the next lowest Regents university, Pittsburg State University and \$1,622 less than the University of Kansas the highest-priced Regents university.

"Just like a business facing economic challenges, we knew that we had two choices," Hammond said. "We could charge our students more or we could serve more students. We opted to increase our enrollment so we could hold down the cost of tuition and fees for individual students by serving a larger student body."

Hammond said part of the growth has been through the Virtual College, and expects that to continue to grow as part of the effort to reach 20,000 by 2020. He said the growth would bring the on campus population up from 5,000 to 7,500 and the virtual students up to 12,500. He said this is a doable goal, and that it will include building a facility to house the virtual university, which is currently being housed in the basement of the library.

"I think we will have to build some additional student housing," he said, "but I do not think we will have to add any academic buildings except for the one to house the virtual university."

Hammond said besides growing the university Fort Hays has been finding ways to be more efficient, in order to hold down operational costs.

"We measure how much it costs us to produce a credit hour of instruction, which would be comparable to a business calculating what it costs to produce each of its 'widgets,'" he said. "Over the past five years we have reduced the cost of producing a credit hour by 4.2 percent, from \$249 down to \$238."

Hammond said he had other examples of the efficiencies that have reduced costs.

"We saved \$73,000 on paper and postage just by moving enrollment and grades to a completely on-line system," he said. "Over the last 10 years, our retention rate for freshmen has increased from 67 percent to 73 percent, which translates into savings in our recruitment efforts."

"We develop courses in-house for our Virtual College at a cost of \$3,000 to \$12,000, compared to \$50,000 per course at other universities, which represents a savings of more than \$1 million a year. We realized a savings of \$875,000 a year by developing our student record system in-house. By installing generators to produce our own electricity during peak-demand hours, we

have seen a net savings of \$773,854 a year on energy costs.

"The numerous efficiencies implemented at Fort Hays State have been critical in allowing the university to fulfill our educational mission despite the necessary belt-tightening by the state," Hammond said.

The current financial crisis is creating new challenges for education at all levels.

"We're facing another slump, but a recent survey shows Kansans do not support further cuts in state support for higher education," he said. "They recognize higher education is more critical than ever to their future and the future of their children. At Fort Hays State, we will continue to grow and we will find new ways to be efficient, but we can't afford further cuts in state funding."

Hammond was accompanied on his annual media tour by Debra Prideaux, director of the Alumni Association and Governmental Relations; Kent Steward, director of University Relations; and Dr. Tisa Mason, the universities' new vice president of Student Affairs.

Museum displays photographs of early modes of transportation

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

From a kindergarten class on the Rock Island "Rocket" to rural mail carriers on motor cycles to horses and buggies and even Henry Ford next to a Ford that won a car race from New York to Seattle in 1909 — all are part of an exhibit of modes of transportation at the High Plains Museum.

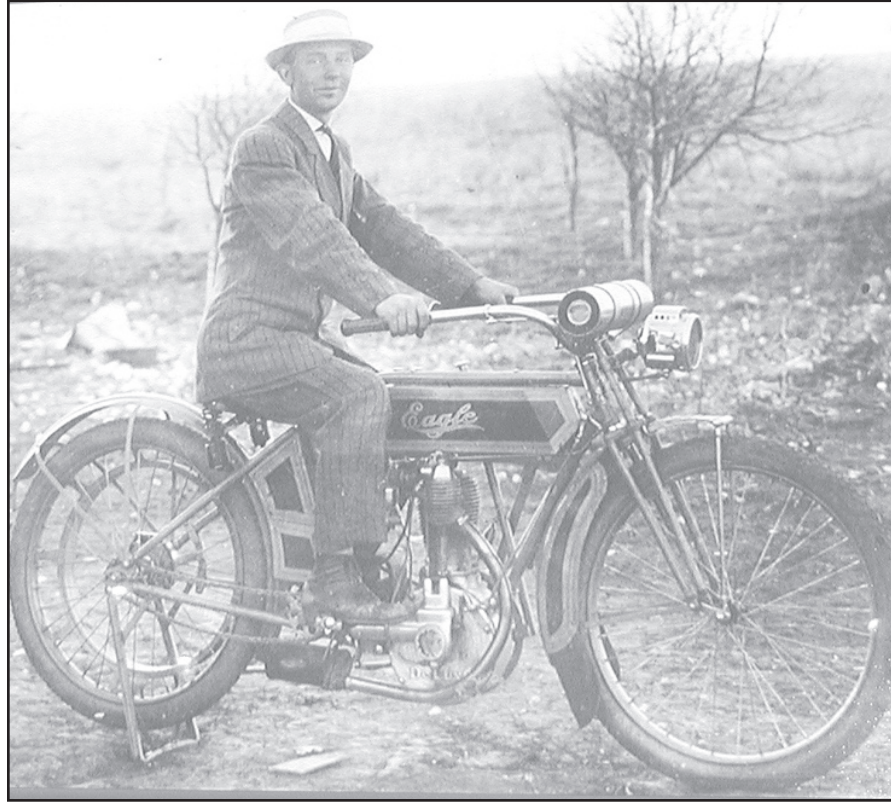
Glenda Parks, registrar at the museum, picked out and arranged about 166 pictures from the Parker Collection that show various modes of transportation used before 1960. The photos were donated to the museum by the Marion and Betty Parker family.

Mr. Parker worked for the Rock Island as a fireman, an engineer and a road foreman of engines and served six years as Kansas legislative representative for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers before retiring in 1973. He was born in 1908 at Colorado Springs and moved with his family to Goodland in 1914. He graduated from Sherman Community High School in 1926, married his high-school sweetheart in 1929 and died in January 2002.

He took a lot of the pictures, Parks said, and kept information on a lot of things that went on in Goodland. He was referred to as the historian for the area, said Linda Holton, museum curator, and his wife had a photography shop.

Among the photos are families in horse-drawn carriages, a Native American woman and her papoose on horseback, people loading chickens onto airplanes, the first helicopter, fire trucks from the 1950s and a bus used to transport military glider pilot trainees from the airport, where training was held, to the Goodland Hotel.

A photo shows Ford cars in the



race from New York to Seattle stopping in downtown Goodland, Gene Autry surrounded by fans when he

stopped at the Goodland airport to refuel his plane in 1954 and Howard Hughes talking to B.E. Bridges, who built the brick building on 17th that houses the Antique Warehouse, in a photo from 1936.

Grain trucks lined up at the elevator, a group of school children on a fire truck, police cars, taxi services and a telephone service truck are in the exhibit.

Looking through the pictures, you can see how parades were enjoyed in celebration of events in days past, including the end of World War I. Long time Sherman County residents can see pictures of their ancestors and family friends from years past. And you can see how things have changed over the years, from the addition of paved roads instead

of mud to the progression toward more comfortable and convenient modes of travel.

There are 60 different names in the captions with the photos, Parks said, adding that she knows of more than 20 people in the county who have relatives in the pictures.

Parks, a 1951 Sherman Community High School graduate, grew up here and

remembers her parents having barn dances in the early '30s and making sandwiches and pies to sell at the dances.

The sandwiches and pies probably made more money than the dance, she said.

Her mother is Leona Smith, who celebrated her 100th birthday in March at the Goodland Good Samaritan Society. Her dad, Harry Smith, died in 1975. She has two sisters, Wanda Schneider and Connie Soellner, both of Goodland.

Their dad had a taxi service in the '40s, Parks said; the weather bureau was getting started then, and a lot of people didn't have cars to drive. Parks moved to Sharon Springs when she married and returned to Goodland about 26 years ago. Since she remembers so many of the people and places in the pictures, she really enjoyed putting the exhibit together.

One photo shows Edith Stewart with an unidentified man and boy loading crates of baby chickens onto an airplane, and another shows a truck for hauling chickens that says "Stewart Ranch" on the side.

"We bought our chickens from her about 50 years ago," Parks said.

The building where the hazardous waste collection is done used to be Stewarts' Hatchery, she said.

Parks said she was going through the collection of pictures to make sure they were in the right places in the drawers, and thought people should see them. She decided on the transportation exhibit this time but says there could be many more. There are cabinets and cabinets of pictures, she said.

People from Colorado Springs looked through the transportation exhibit when they visited the museum, she said, and they thought the museum had a really good collection of old pictures. People can learn a lot from them, she said, and see what people used to live without that everyone takes for granted today.

The museum, 1717 Cherry Ave., is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

correction

On Page 1b of The Goodland Star-News on Friday, Oct. 24, the article on the county Republican committee electing new officers incorrectly said the Myron Tedford was elected to replace Ron Vignery instead of Roxie Yonkey as chair of the central committee.

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

☆☆☆☆

Be Inspired Everyday!

November 7 and 8-Holiday Open House.
We will show you the latest in holiday home fashion. YOU WILL BE WOWED! Load everybody up and come on over!

Friday the 7th-Two demonstrations at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.-
Seasonal Circle-Create a cheerful holiday wreath! We'll help show you how with your own kit (fee charged).
Unforgettable Cocktail Party 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday the 8th-Two demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.- Gift Giving Guide and Unforgettable Gift Wrapping- We have come up with some delightful ideas to help make the holidays more merry and bright! We will also show you unforgettable ways to wrap it all up in fabulous festive styles.

The Almond Tree
1024 Main, Goodland
(785) 890-7668
www.shopalmondtree.com

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Stop by the GAC
November 4th * Election Day

All Sherman County citizens are invited to let their voice be heard regarding "At-large" voting for County Commissioners.

Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Paid for by Government Service Alliance Action Team/Shine on Sherman County