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Landscaping the HILL

Job for a Hercules

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A CAMPUS IS MORE than buildings. Like jewels, of equal importance in their appearance is the setting in which they are placed.

The University is blessed with a setting of natural beauty. The problem of landscaping is how to keep it that way.

Much has been said and written recently about the addition of buildings to the K.U. campus. Little has been mentioned, however, about what is happening to the grounds in the process. This proud and graceful crescent is part of what K.U. means to her thousands of alumni, and it seems in order to make a report about it.

Spilling off the Promontory

The top of the Mt. Oread crescent has been filled for some time. The grand view of the long line of rust-red roofs from the Pleasant Grove approach confirms this fact to even the most casual viewer. Now the time has arrived when an expanding K.U. is spilling off the promontory onto the steep and graceful slopes to the south and east.

We are proud to say that the campus is growing in an orderly and integrated pattern. While buildings are planned and built, the landscape construction which will tie them into the rest of the grounds is also being planned. As soon after the building contractor has left the site as time and the elements will permit, the landscape contractor is at work. In this way there are no long periods of ugliness left by the scars of construction, and we can keep faith with the obligation to protect and augment the natural grandeur of K.U.'s site and view.



Keith Lawton

The Hill Means Special Problems

The sharply sloping topography through which we expand presents special problems to design and construction which are abnormal to the usual concept of the term "landscaping." Together with the aesthetic obligation, there are such practical problems as terracing and holding the steepest slopes with sod and retaining walls, providing wide, paved walks with many steps and landings at grades which can be negotiated easily and yet which are direct enough to be of service, proper placing of service drives for daily care and service to buildings, screening of necessary but unsightly utilities, providing proper drain-

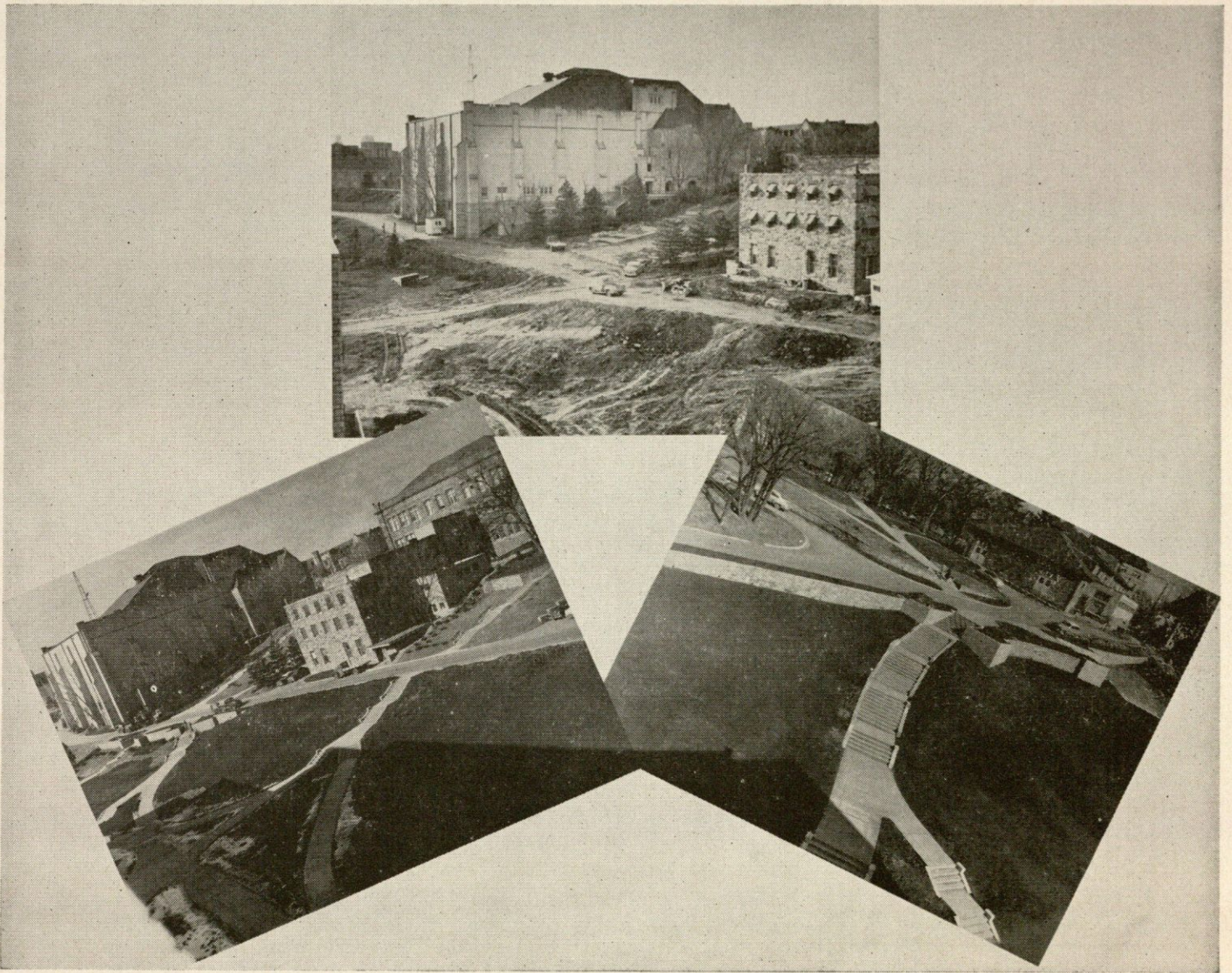
age, the grading of the hillsides to graceful contours, and filling with black soil where necessary for growing ground cover.

Such work is of construction contract proportions and is followed up by the landscape planting of our own grounds and gardening crews.

Four Years—11 Big Projects

Eleven major grounds projects have been completed in the last four years.

- The Alumni Place dormitory area south of Fourteenth and Louisiana streets.
- Walks and service drives between the Student Union and Green hall after additions had been made to both buildings.
- Walks and service drive connecting Jayhawk Drive and Memorial Drive at the west side of Snow hall.
- Walks, landscaping, and guest parking in the Student Union-Faculty Club-Art Museum area following construction at the Student Union and the Faculty Club.
- Drainage, walks and beautification of the north slope of the campus from the Campanile to the Stadium.
- Access walks, drainage, landscaping, and service drive in the Douthart-Grace Pearson dormitory area north of Fourteenth and Louisiana streets.
- The parking, drainage, and service drive area south of Malott hall, the new physical sciences building.
- The Chi Omega fountain at the west end of Jayhawk boulevard.
- Walks, drive, parking, and grading for the Carruth and O'Leary halls area.
- Walks, drainage, grading, and paving of the Allen field house site.



BEFORE—THE SOUTH SLOPE was mud and rubble after the construction of Malott hall, the new physical sciences building. After—the hillside has been contoured by bulldozers and earthmovers, black soil has been spread, sod has been laid, a graceful, convenient network of walks and steps has been poured. These views look north from Malott hall toward the backs of Hoch auditorium, Haworth hall and Flint hall. On the landing in the lower right picture, the class of '54 will build an overlook as its class gift. The class of '55 has similar plans for the landing in the lower left picture.

- And, largest and most significant of all, the south campus landscape construction project north of Malott hall shown in the "before and after" photographs in the panel above. This provides a major connecting link between the hilltop and the new campus development to the southwest.

Michigan Street Is New Approach

In addition, several paving projects and a major street addition have improved the appearance and facility of the University in the last ten years.

Initiated by the Memorial Drive, a road-building program has resulted in the paving and draining of Michigan street from 16th to 19th streets (passing in front of Allen field house) and 19th street from Michigan street west to Iowa street (highway 59.) These were made possible by the

cooperation of K.U. and the City of Lawrence.

The Michigan street project is of particular significance. The City of Lawrence is extending the street—four lanes wide—south from 19th street to 23rd street (highway 10). This will become the major campus approach from the south and west. From this direction approaching visitors will see one of the best views of the University, find the most gradual approach to the Hill, have direct access to the spectator interests in Allen field house and the Music and Dramatic Arts building (when it is finished) without moving across the main campus, and enter directly upon the new contemporary buildings developing on the south slopes of Mt. Oread.

Plans for the Future

Plans for future landscaping projects re-

ceive daily attention as the University gets ready to follow up construction of the new Music and Dramatic Arts building already rising from the earth near the Military Sciences building. Scheduled to follow soon is the School of Business and Economics in the same area. And an expanding Engineering School will soon bring land immediately west of Naismith road into the campus proper.

Everyone at the University who has duties concerned with the care, growth, and development of the campus and grounds has a keen sense of the responsibility to preserve and enhance its beauty in the process.

The understanding of this obligation by the Board of Regents and the legislatures, under the leadership of Chancellor Franklin D. Murphy, is making possible the integrated growth of one of America's most impressive Universities.