

*(The following are excerpts from documents created by Bill Griffith and Baley Price in 1994 for Founders Day. It is a timeline of some of the activities of Paul Endacott in the creation of the KU Retirees Club, which was renamed the Endacott Society after Paul Endacott's death in January, 1997.)*

In 1956 Paul Endacott set an example of individual giving. He began to make annual contributions to appropriate departments in honor of seven former professors to enable them to carry on cherished projects that could not be supported from appropriated funds.

In November 1966, Mr. Endacott contributed \$5,000 as an initial installment toward a projected fund of \$100,000 in the KU Endowment Association to be used to mark the centennial of the University. This became known as the "Expressions of Appreciation" honoring individuals they greatly respected or to whom they felt particularly indebted.

Mr. Endacott had observed to Mr. Youngberg in August 1967 that construction of an attractive headquarters building appropriate to its intended function "seems essential" to the success of his enterprise. He now planned a handsome structure to be erected on a commanding site where it would stand as a monument to remind faculty, students, and alumni of the individuals it honored and serve as a constant stimulus to alumni to contribute toward maintenance of the building itself and support of the activities of retirees it housed.

On 14 February 1977, Mr. Endacott presented to Mr. Youngberg "A Proposal Relating to University of Kansas Retirees," a document of sixty pages with an Appendix of ten additional pages of notes plus a separate binder of exhibits. Drawing on a continuing relationship over decades with Phillips retirees and pre-retirees, he proposed a program of activities that he believed would enable University retirees to pursue their own interests and benefit others, and accompanied it with a floor plan and a description of a building appropriate to that purpose.

In mid-September 1977, Mr. Youngberg informed Mr. Endacott that the Retired Faculty Center would share the designated construction site with a proposed Alumni Center.

In early December 1977, Mr. Wintermote informed Mr. Endacott that the University Administration, the Endowment Association, and the Alumni Association had agreed to proceed with the Alumni Center project.

Between mid-May and late September of 1979 all three interested parties approved the plan the Alumni Center Planning Committee<sup>5</sup> presented<sup>6</sup>, and key KU alumni and friends of the University were invited to participate in a session on 1 December 1979 to evaluate the Alumni Center building project.

The decision to construct a multi-purpose Alumni Center building made, a Fund

Raising Committee--also called a Steering Committee<sup>16</sup>--began activity. The Chairman, in early May 1980, invited Mr. Endacott to accept membership on the Committee, and affixed to his formal letter a longhand note: "Paul, we're most, most grateful for the magnificent gift you've made to 'kick off this campaign.

On the day that ground\_ breaking ceremonies were conducted, the Phillips Petroleum Company announced a contribution of \$600,000, payable in four equal installments beginning in 1981, to establish the "Phillips Petroleum Company Endowment Fund for the K. S. 'Boots' Adams Kansas Alumni Center," the income from which was for maintenance and operation of Alumni Center. One sixth of the gift, \$100,000, was "specifically earmarked as an endowment fund for the retired faculty services."

Ray Nichols, in the meantime, began the organization of retirees that Mr. Endacott had suggested. He constituted a general Program Committee of retirees, with himself as chair that began operation in October 1981.

The Alumni Center accommodates Retirees' Club activities, but it recognizes no designated retiree facility. The House Rules (Adopted in 1983, Amended in May 1983, October 1983 and January 1987) acknowledge that "A major share of the first floor was designed primarily for the K.U. Retirees' Club (retired members of the KU faculty and staff" and declare that **"The K.U. Retirees' Club has priority access to the Library, Music Room, Snack room and Recreation Room, and has exclusive access of the Craft Room."**

On March 16, 1983 a general meeting of all retired faculty members was held at 2:00p.m. in the Burge Union. The attendees heard a description of the new organization, adopted the proposed constitution and by-laws, and elected Raymond Nichols its first president.

Uncertainty marked the beginning of the Club when the Adams Alumni Center opened in the fall of 1983, but Mr. Nichols made a tentative beginning by telephoning a number of members and inviting them to meet him there for morning coffee. About a dozen came and enjoyed coffee and conversation around the table in what is now the vending machine room on first floor.