Memorial Carillon Tower

On April 29, 1985, plans were announced for the construction of a carillon tower on the campus’s central quad west of the Calvin T. Ryan Library, east of Founders Hall, north of Bruner Hall of Science, and south of Copeland Hall.

At the same time, it was announced that private donations of $285,600 had been received for its construction. The funds came almost entirely from the children of Elias K. and Mary Yanney, and George and Venetia Peterson, with the intent of providing a memorial for their parents. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were Peter Peterson, a resident of New York City, and John Peterson, living in Colorado Springs. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Yanney were E. K. Yanney of Lodgepole, Nebraska, Mike Yanney of Omaha, Vernon Yanney of North Platte, Margaret Shada of Kearney, Mildred Shada of Omaha, and Minnette Steinbrink of Kearney. All were alumni or alumnae of Kearney State College, as UNK was known at the time.

Original plans by architects Jack Wilkins and Associates of Omaha called for a tower 74 feet tall; changes in the design resulted in the tower being 66 feet, six inches tall upon completion. This is exactly six feet greater than the distance between the pitcher’s rubber and home plate.

Construction began during the first week of classes in the fall semester of 1985, and the tower was dedicated at ceremonies on May 15, 1986. Mr. Peter Peterson was the main speaker at Spring Commencement the following day.

The tower supports 24 bells weighing a total of 5,790 pounds. The smallest weighs 48 pounds and is 11.5 inches in diameter; the largest weighs 1,477 pounds and has a diameter of 40 7/8 inches. The bells were cast by the Paccard Bell Foundry in Annecy, France; their installation was supervised by Mr. Harry van Bergen of Van Bergen Bellfoundries of Atlanta, Georgia, who spent two days on campus for this purpose in March 1986.

The tower was decorated with relief sculptures. The original friezes, copies of those found on the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, once galloped along the wall of the auditorium in the old Administration Building. These were donated to the school by the Class of 1911. Art professor Ray Schultz recreated these from the originals by a rubber molding process. There was some controversy at the time concerning the fact that the stallions depicted in the friezes were recast for the carillon tower without their penises.
Memorial Carillon Tower
Under Construction, March 1986
Memorial Carillon Tower
Under Construction, April 1986
Casts of Parthenon Friezes
During Installation, April 1986
KEARNEY STATE COLLEGE

MEMORIAL
CARILLON BELL TOWER
DEDICATION

May 15, 1986

The Kearney State College Memorial Carillon Bell Tower is dedicated to the memory of Elias K. and Mary Yanney and George and Venetia Peterson. It is made possible by a gift from the Yanney families, E. K., Mike, Vernon, Margaret, Mildred and Minnette, and the Peterson families, Peter and John.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

William Nester, Presiding

INVOCATION .................................. Father John Essa
St. George Orthodox Church

WELCOME .................................... Dr. William Nester
President

SPECIAL MUSIC ............................ Brass Ensemble
Dr. Jim Payne
Associate Professor of Music

DEDICATORY REMARKS ..................... Mr. E. K. Yanney
Mr. John G. Peterson

ACCEPTANCE ............................... J. Alan Cramer
Chairman
State College Board of Trustees

RESPONSES ................................. Mr. Ron Cope
President
KSC Foundation

Dr. Vernon Plambeck
Chairman
Faculty Senate

Mr. Michael Synek
President
Student Senate

CARILLON MUSIC ........................... Dr. Arnold Sivils
Professor of Music
Memorial Carillon Tower
Looking Upwards at Night, 1986
Note the Lit Dome
Memorial Carillon Tower at Night, 1988
Building in Background is
Calvin T. Ryan Library
Memorial Carillon Tower
During Night Snowstorm, 1994
View Looks to the East
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
View is to the North
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
Parthenon Frieze on South Side
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
Dedication Plaque on Southeast Pillar
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
View Up From Directly Below
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
Bells
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
View is to the North-Northwest
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
View to the North, From Inside Bruner Hall of Science
Memorial Carillon Tower, 2009
Bells