

Herbert L. Cushing Coliseum

“Believing a good sports program was also a good recruiting tool, President [Herbert L.] Cushing, a former athlete, moved to upgrade Kearney athletics....[A]fter visiting over 30 comparable colleges in South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, he related that “he had not found one college with facilities so handicapping students who need health, physical education and recreational training as the physical education building at Kearney.” He protested that under the present mill levy, it would take 10 years to accumulate enough money to build the proposed gymnasium, so with the approval of the board of trustees, a request was made to the legislature for an appropriation of state funds. Cushing Coliseum became a reality in 1961. Although the cost was a hefty \$1.3 million, it accommodated three classrooms; a basketball court seating 3,600; 212 lockers and storage space; a 220-yard indoor dirt track with a broad-jump pit, a pole-vault runway, and a shot-put area; a 74-by-45-by-12-foot swimming pool that featured an underwater observation area as well as underwater lighting; offices for the physical education staff; separate locker room facilities for faculty; and a concession stand. The college used the building for the first time to inaugurate their fifth president, Dr. Hassel.”

-Susanne George Bloomfield, Richard D. Schuessler, and Eric Melvin Reed,
From the Beginning; 1905-2005. (Kearney, Nebr., University of
Nebraska at Kearney, 2005), p. 47.

Ground was broken for Cushing Coliseum in the last week of March, 1960, and the cornerstone was laid during ceremonies beginning at noon on May 23, 1960. Master of Ceremonies was M. W. Joseph C. Tye, Grand Master, Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska. The oration was given by William A. Brandenburg, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska.

Cushing Coliseum was first opened for use in November, 1961, and the swimming pool area was completed late in January, 1962. General Contractor was Lane Contracting Company, Casper, Wyoming. Mechanical Contractor was Arthur L. Hilberg, Kearney, Nebraska. Electrical Contractor was Cesco Electric Company, North Platte, Nebraska.

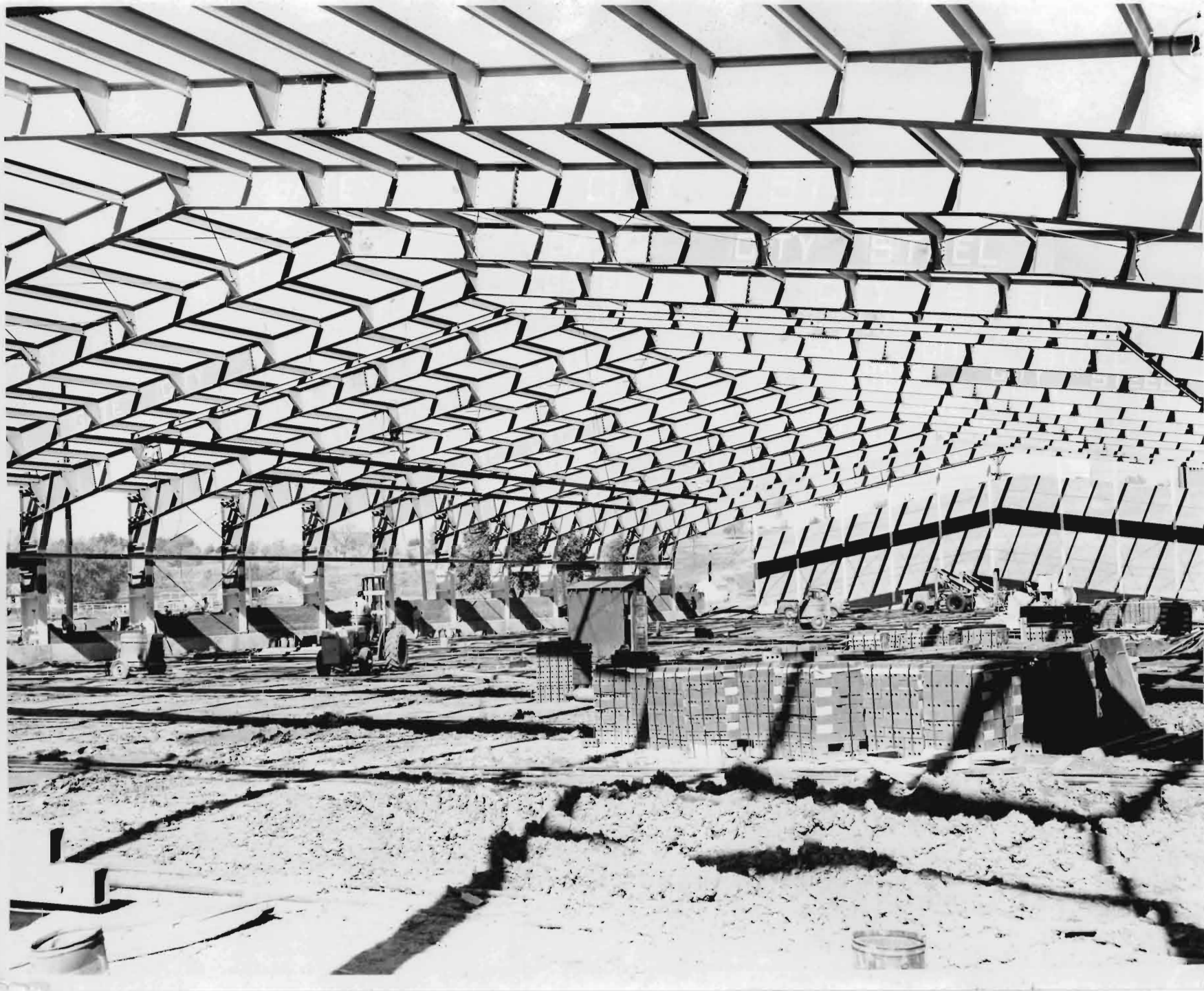
Cushing Coliseum was dedicated on February 11, 1962. It was named in honor of the institution's fourth President, Herbert L. Cushing, who served in the post from November 1, 1936 until July 1, 1961. President Cushing died of a heart attack on February 28, 1962.



**Architect's Drawing of the Proposed Physical Education Building,
Later To Be Named Herbert L Cushing Coliseum**



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum Under Construction, 1960



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum Under Construction, 1960



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum Under Construction, 1960

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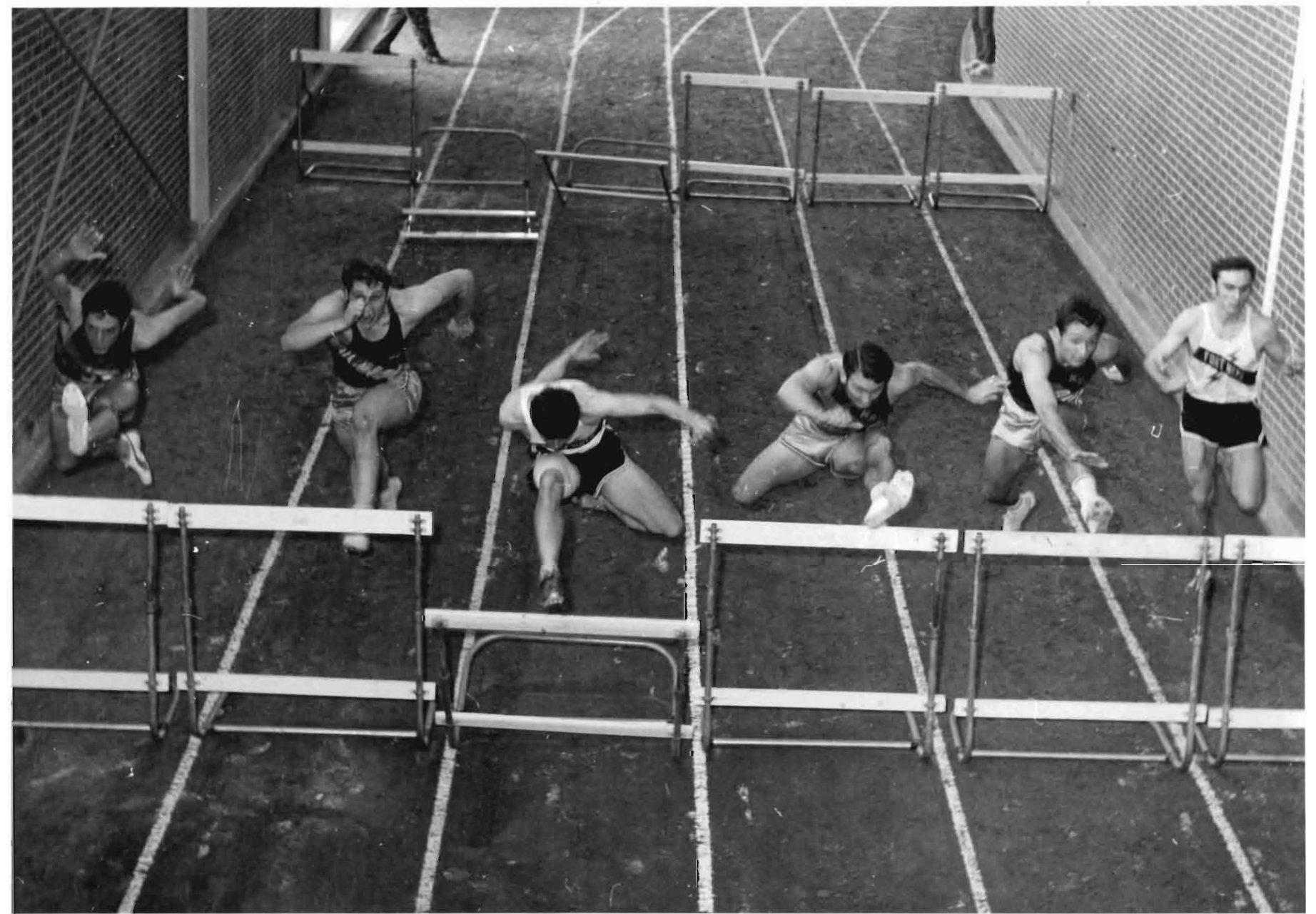
Souvenir Program

**First Basketball Game in
Herbert L. Cushing Coliseum
December 2, 1961**

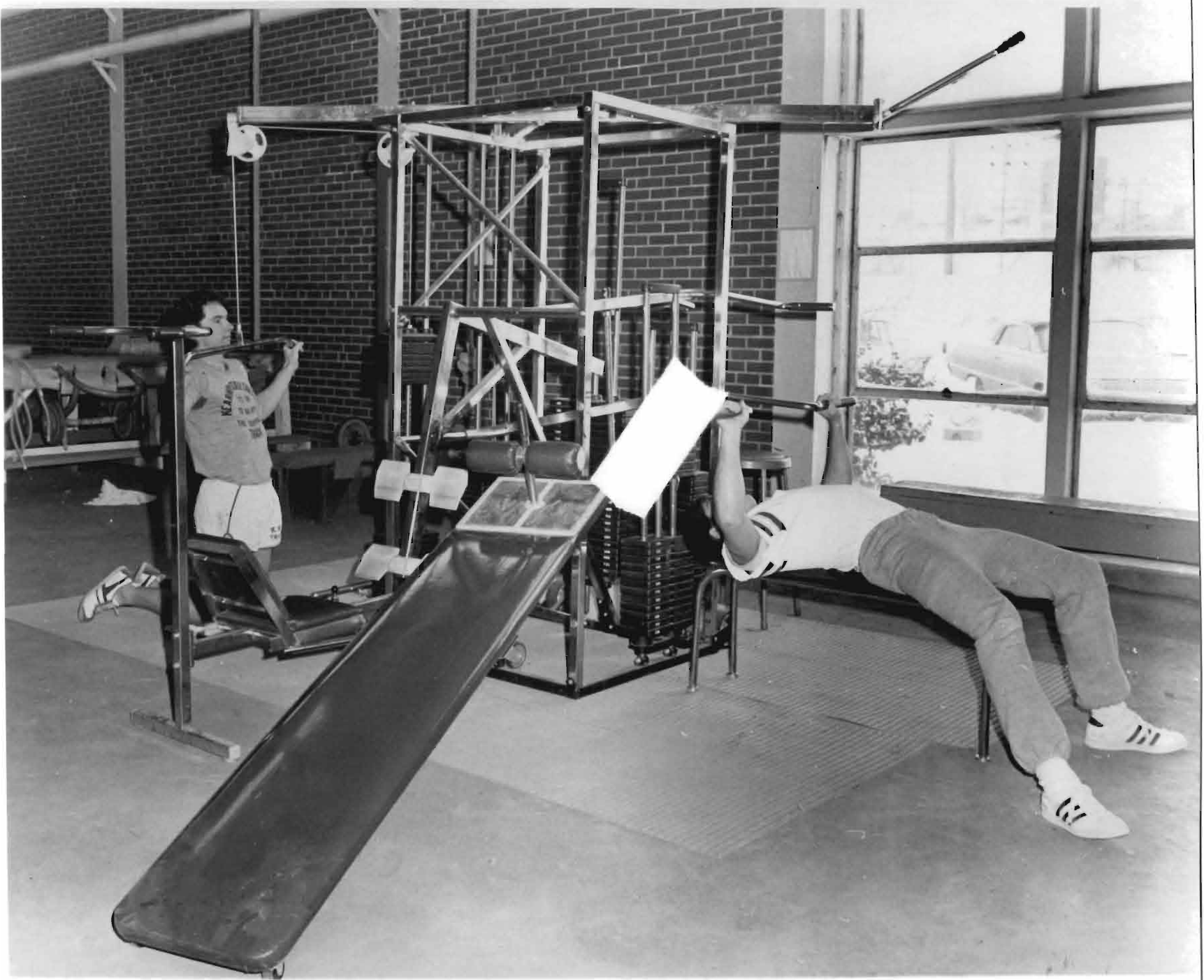
Herbert L. Cushing
President, 1936-61
Endowment Ass'n.
Secretary, 1961-



**Cover Of Program For First Basketball Game In
Herbert L Cushing Coliseum**



**1962 Action On Indoor Track In
Herbert L Cushing Coliseum**



**Weight Room in Herbert L Cushing Coliseum, 1962.
It Was Located At the Northeast Corner Of the Track Area.**



**Rev. Richard Miles Delivers the Invocation
At Dedication Of Herbert L Cushing Coliseum
February 11, 1962**



1963 Action On Basketball Court In
Herbert L Cushing Coliseum



Commencement Ceremonies in Herbert L Cushing Coliseum, 1960's



**Dance in Herbert L Cushing Coliseum, October, 1968.
Dancers Are Moving To the Sounds of The Sunny Funny Company.**



Swimming Pool in Herbert L Cushing Coliseum, 1969

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PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE

HELLEBERG & HELLEBERG, ARCHITECTS

LANE CONTRACTING CORP., BUILDERS

1960



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum From the Southeast, 2009



**Northern Part of Herbert L Cushing Coliseum
From the Southeast, 2009**



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum Swimming Pool Exterior, 2009



**Northern Part of Herbert L Cushing Coliseum
From the Northeast, 2009**



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum, Main (North) Door, 2009



**Interior of Herbert L Cushing Coliseum Fieldhouse, 2009
Looking North**



Interior of Herbert L Cushing Coliseum Fieldhouse, 2009
Note Portrait of Cushing on South Wall



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum, Hallway, 2009



Trophy Case in Herbert L Cushing Coliseum, Hallway, 2009



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum West Wall, 2009



Herbert L Cushing Coliseum From the Northwest, 2009