

Corps of Engineers) specific instructions to cover this particular situation. If, for any reason, an appropriate outgrant cannot be made available immediately, the Salina board of education must be so advised.

It was not until a second visit by a large delegation of Washington and Kansas City Federal officials late in May that a definite occupancy date was established. At that meeting, chaired by Mr. Bradford, it was established that the buildings and equipment for the area vocational-technical school would be assigned to the Salina board of education by July 15. Although almost a month later than the earlier assigned target date, it was the first of the disposal packages which had become a reality. When the long awaited announcement was made on the 13th of July that the transfer would be effective on the 15th, Superintendent Osterberg assured local citizens that he would have plenty of time to get everything ready for September. At that time he had his core requirement of three buildings and some 10,498 items of equipment including a completely equipped machine shop.

The new school opened its doors to over 200 daytime students, and ever-increasing enrollments in post-high-school and adult night courses, exactly on schedule. Its success is a matter of record. The first class was graduated in May 1966.

#### SCHILLING INSTITUTE

In a number of studies completed in the decade preceding the announced closure of Schilling Air Force Base, various advisory educational groups had called attention to the lack of opportunity to receive a technician-level education in the State of Kansas. State and local societies of engineers and technicians had also been pointing out the serious lack of technical education opportunities for the citizens of Kansas. The studies further indicated the serious shortage of properly trained technicians. Attempts to obtain the necessary funds to establish a technical institute within the State were lost in the clamor for those same dollars by the existing institutions of higher learning.

With the announced closing of Schilling a few local individuals, aware of this problem in the State, began discussing and exploring the possibilities of the usage of Schilling facilities. In early January of 1965, President Dr. James A. McCain, of Kansas State University, wrote the Schilling Development Council and offered the services of the university to assist Salina in the program of economic recovery. In replying to Dr. McCain the council advised him of the scheduled mid-January meetings with governmental officials and suggested that the university might send people to learn firsthand what might be available at Schilling for technical school purposes.

Dr. Paul E. Russell, dean of the Kansas State College of Engineering, his assistant Prof. Henry M. Neely, Jr., and Prof. Thomas F. Creech immediately began a survey and inspection of the available facilities and their adaptability for the laboratories and classrooms that would be necessary at a technical institute. This team of engineering educators enthusiastically reported that the potential exceeded the basic criteria by many fold. The fact that hundreds of items of equipment and furniture would be declared surplus and would quite likely be made available to the school, added to their enthusiasm. At the mid-January meetings it was publicly announced that Kansas