

mentation of programs in aeronautical, civil, computer, electronic, and detail and design technologies.

With a projected enrollment of over 2,000 students within the next 5 or 6 years, Salina community leaders and the Salina Airport Authority consider the institute to be a most promising major "industry". Kansas now has its long needed and sought after technical institute.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

From the first day following the mid-January meetings in 1965, a small group of citizens led by Charles Waeckerle, a local financing and investment company official, had been devoting their time and energies to find a medically associated use for the base hospital building and its supporting facilities. It had been concluded that neither of the two large, modern and recently expanded Salina hospitals could economically add the facilities to their purposes and it was further concluded that the community did not need a third general hospital.

On that premise, the committee contacted every State, National, Federal, and private institution that could conceivably use the facility: Heart and cancer treatment and research organizations were contacted; the Shrine, as a children's hospital; the Knights of Columbus, for similar purposes; United Commercial Travelers; Kansas University Medical Center; the Menninger Foundation; Mayo Brothers; and a number of other similar institutions. The answers received in every instance, particularly after representatives had visited the base, were that the hospital certainly had great value but its location in central Kansas, the lack of funds, the distance from other high-level medical centers and combinations of these reasons made it impractical for them to consider the matter further. Many of those directly connected with the problem feel that there should be some systematic method of making all public and quasi-public agencies aware of the availability of superb surplus medical facilities.

However, the efforts of Mr. Waeckerle and his active committee did finally bear fruit. In mid-June of 1965, a chance contact with a representative of the Kansas Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Board, by a Salina doctor, quickly developed into a potential medically associated use for the hospital facility. Roger H. Triplett, State director of the Kansas Division of Rehabilitation, was invited by Waeckerle to visit the facilities and, after the initial tour in late June, Triplett wrote that the facilities would be ideal to provide the comprehensive and specialized services needed by many of our disabled in Kansas. He pointed out that Salina, centered in the State, is easily accessible from all parts of the State and that the buildings were ideally suited to the rehabilitation program. Triplett also mentioned the availability of the area vocational-technical school and the Schilling Institute for rehabilitation training. Triplett requested an expression from the city of its desire to obtain a rehabilitation center and the city's willingness to cooperate with such a project. At a hurriedly called meeting attended by more than sixty members of the economic development committee of the chamber of commerce, he had his answer in an unanimous endorsement. There followed the need to obtain approval of the proposal from both State and Federal officials, a program which was vigorously pursued. On August 6, 1965, a formal request was made to the Department of Health,