History of 'K-Hill' Involves Most College Engineers Since 1920

By BILL MILLER

This section of the hill required considerable preparatory work, and a day was spent clearing and leveling it off to the slant of the hill. On May 16, classes were dismissed and the Engineers started in on the "K". Rain halted the work at noon, so the crew went to the Manhattan Community House for barbecued sandwiches. The rain soon stopped, and by six p.m., the job was completed. An army searchlight was spotted in on the hill, and the chairman of the committee presented the letter to the College and the city of Manhattan in an appropriate ceremony. Dr. J. T. Willard represented the College, and Mayor Hurst, Majors, the city.

The latest chapter of this story was begun when it became known, that the property on which the letters are located had changed owners several times. No documents, agreement assuring the Engineers the right to maintain the letters could be found, so a movement to acquire title to the land was begun.

Sigma Tau took this on as a project in 1937 and several solicitation were attempted, Funds were not available to buy the entire 28 acre tract, so proceedings were begun to have the section set aside as a park. This was not successful, and a practical solution was agreed upon only last spring.

In exchange for a 220 foot strip of land, including enough area for the "K" plus easement rights permitting entrance at any time, Sigma Tau members agreed to survey and subdivide 30 acres of property for the land owner. This was completed before the end of the '47 school year, after many Fridays and Saturdays of hard work involving every member of the honorary fraternity.

In an all-school assembly on October 16, 1947, the deed was presented to the college by Prof. L. V. White, faculty sponsor of Sigma Tau and consistent promoter of this project for over 10 years. President Eisenhower accepted for the College.

Funds from the Engineering Council and Sigma Tau financed lighting of the freshly whitewashed "KS" the night before homecoming this year. An army searchlight was played on K-Hill from the top of Summit Hill.

According to tradition, Freshmen Engineers have the important responsibility for cleaning and whitewashing the letters each fall semester. All of those who have had some part in maintaining or building the "KS" can be proud that they have helped build a very real part of Kansas State's tradition.