

Dedication of the Louis W. and Dolpha Baehr Center

The Baehr Audio Reader Center was officially dedicated on Friday, November 18, 1988, with a ceremony held in a large tent in the backyard of the newly renovated Audio Reader facility at 1120 W. 11th St. Original plans for an October dedication had to be changed due to a schedule conflict for several Baehr Foundation trustees. Guests at the dedication included: several Baehr Foundation officers, K.U. officials, Audio Reader staff, volunteers, listeners, and contributors.

Speakers acknowledged the efforts of many who had contributed to the new facility. W.C. Hartley, Baehr Foundation trustee, noted that it was an easy decision for the Foundation trustees to make a contribution to Audio Reader because the service provided the opportunity to serve so many people in need. He told about the Baehrs' frequent generosity to others and quoted Louis Baehr's directions to the superintendent of Paola schools, "Whatever child needs glasses, shoes, clothes . . . get them for them and send the bill to me."

Judith Ramaley, Executive Vice-Chancellor of K.U. noted that the services of the Audio Reader staff and volunteers were used by 5000 listeners throughout the state. Of those 5000, 90% were blind, 10% were physically disabled or dyslexic, and 50% or more were age 65 and/or retired.

Gene Budig, Chancellor of K.U., paid special tribute to Petey Cerf and Rosie Hurwitz who gave so much to the development of the reading service. Ralph Turner, a volunteer of 15 years, talked about how much the experience meant to him and other volunteers.

File notes indicate some of the many preparations needed prior to the dedication:

- Windows washed and building and grounds "spruced up"
- Shuttle bus arrangements for transporting guests from the Memorial Stadium parking lot – special thanks to volunteer Chuck Fisher for those arrangements
- Preparation of an 11"x15" bronze plaque, reading Louis W. and Dolpha Baehr Audio Reader Center, to be mounted by the front door
- Invitations and dedication programs to be printed
- Flowers and refreshments ordered and – thanks to Joe Flannery of Weaver's Department store – use of a coat rack
- Luncheon arrangements for Baehr Foundation Trustees and other designated guests at the Adams Alumni Center following the dedication.

