

News Release

April 2018

Raymond Frye Complex a landmark in Sumner County for 30 years and counting!

April 16, 1988 was a special day in Sumner County! Many folks may remember that it was the dedication of the “new” Raymond Frye Complex. The memories and time spent enjoying such a terrific facility brings a smile for many who have enjoyed special events, celebrations, or other educational activities in the Raymond Frye Complex. Those who helped to make Raymond Frye’s vision a reality have memories of a generous man who talked about the benefit to the county this landmark could be.

Over 300 people attended the dedication of the Raymond Frye Complex. It was the culmination of Raymond Frye’s dream for a facility that would have a large meeting space for 4-H, Ag and EHU activities as well as be available to the general public. Mr. Frye promoted the need of office space for Extension and the Federal agricultural offices in the same building. You could also count on Mr. Frye stepping up to help start the fund raising by offering a sizeable donation to the county commissioners for this purpose.

They often say, “Time flies when you are having fun”. It must be true, because it seems like it has only been a few years since the Raymond Frye Complex was first dedicated. The people in Sumner County can still celebrate the many activities the facility is used for by people throughout the county as well as other visitors. Activities such as 4-H meetings and project training, Ag and Family and Consumer Science educational programs, community events, county board events, wedding celebrations, craft activities, election voting, outside group meetings and the list goes on. Mr. Frye would be thrilled knowing that this facility which bears his name has been so useful for everyone throughout the county.

The Raymond Frye Complex was a crowning achievement of the generosity and service Raymond Frye gave to Sumner County. He was a former Sumner County Extension Agent and loved 4-H. He was a supporter of Rock Springs 4-H Center spear heading fund raising in Sumner County for Rock Springs. Mr. Frye also provided camping scholarships for many years to the Sumner County 4-H members. Then in 1986 at the age of 86 Mr. Frye approached the County Commissioners with a large donation to build a 4-H facility that would also serve as an Ag Center. It was reported in the Wellington Daily News on May 12, 1986. Mr. Frye’s dream was to see the project completed and to be able to enjoy it! He shared his vision with the Extension staff and others in the community. All those at the dedication saw how thrilled he was to see the Complex completed.

A project like this takes many people that share the vision! Among those were the County Commissioners at that time Elmer Dill, Marvin Wyckoff, and Wallace Wolf. The building committee was chaired by Shirley Theurer. Other committee members were Robert Cobean, Doug Pfalzgraf, Carolyn Ellis, Eldon Lawless, Wallace Wolf, and Ed LeValley. They put in many hours planning and working on this project. Donations were accepted from businesses, groups, and individuals throughout Sumner County and are recognized on a plaque in the foyer of the complex.

It took one spark, one idea, one person to plant the seed for a lasting facility that so many use each day. Most of us would say we cannot remember when it wasn't the landmark at the corner of 8th and Jefferson in Wellington.

Thanks to those who continue to make sure the Raymond Frye Complex will be available for years to come!