

The University of Toledo



2801 W. Bancroft Street
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Office of Public Information
(419) 537-2675

November 10, 1982

FROM: Fred Mollenkopf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Toledo Libraries will benefit from the trust estate of Dr. J. Lester Kobacker, an outstanding Toledo cardiologist who died last February.

Dr. Kobacker instructed that the UT libraries should receive in excess of \$100,000 from the residue of his trust estate.

UT President Glen R. Driscoll expressed appreciation for Dr. Kobacker's gift and added: "The past two years have been very good for the University, producing more than \$6 million in endowed funding. It is most exciting to see this acceleration of concern and support, even in the face of a tighter economy. I only hope we can continue to merit the interest of present and potential donors."

Leslie Sheridan, director of UT libraries, said that the bequest would contribute significantly to the \$1 million endowment goal that is a part of the Centennial Fund Campaign's Decade of Development.

Dr. Kobacker, who was 81 at his death, was former chief of cardiology and medicine at Toledo and Riverside hospitals and also had served as chief of staff and of cardiology at the former Maumee Valley Hospital.

He had served as president of the Ohio affiliate of the American Heart Association, president of the Northwestern Ohio Heart Association and as secretary of the Ohio State Heart Association.

His interest in Arabian horses was acquired from his father, Morris Kobacker, president of the former Kobacker Furniture Co., who rode horses until he was 88.

Dr. Kobacker was a graduate of the University of Michigan and received his medical degree from Harvard University.

William Klein, his attorney, said that his interest in medical research was a factor in including the University Libraries in his trust.

Dr. Kobacker served in the Army in World War I and in the Navy in World War II. In the latter, he headed the naval hospital in the Solomon Islands for two years.

Dr. Kobacker was a past president of the Toledo lodge of B'nai B'rith.

He had no immediate survivors.

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November 29, 1982

FROM: Fred Mollenkopf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ground will be broken Tuesday (Nov. 30) at 10:30 a.m. for Stranahan Hall-- The University of Toledo's \$6.7 million College of Business Administration building.

The six-story building, near the northeast edge of Centennial Mall, has been made possible by a \$2 million gift from the Stranahan Foundation and by a \$4.7 million appropriation from the state.

Helping turn the first earth for the new building will be R.A. Stranahan Jr., president and chairman of the Champion Spark Plug Co. and a trustee of the foundation; Dr. Glen R. Driscoll, UT president; John C. Straub, chairman of the UT Board of Trustees; Raymond P. Snow Jr., dean of the College of Business Administration, and members of the college's Building Committee.

The groundbreaking will be attended by local and state government figures, representatives of area businesses, UT Trustees and administrators, trustees of the Stranahan Foundation, representatives of the UT Admissions Office and of the University and college alumni associations, leaders of student business organizations, faculty and staff of the college, and the building's architect. A reception and luncheon, hosted by the college's Business Advisory Council, will follow in the Continuing Education Center.

President Driscoll noted that the Stranahan gift is the largest capital gift and largest private foundation gift in the history of the University and that UT has previously been the recipient of \$400,000 in various forms of assistance from the Stranahan Foundation.

He added: "The fact of the Stranahan name on this building will remind everyone throughout the next many years of the generosity of this family and of its deep concern for the education of the youth of our society. Northwest Ohio should be forever grateful for this newest bright gem in the crown of higher education."

Mr. Stranahan, in commenting on the grant, said: "The funds for philanthropic or charitable activities are made possible solely by a healthy or profitable business community. Therefore, it can be said that business is a partner of education, human services, and the arts in improving the quality of life in America.

"This grant, then, is not just to assist the University and those who attend its College of Business Administration. Rather, it should strengthen that partnership and thus result in benefits that go far beyond the University's campus."

Since its formation in 1944, the Stranahan Foundation, a family trust, has given many millions of dollars to educational, medical, religious and human-service organizations.

It provided funds to construct the Community Service Building in downtown Toledo, which houses public and human services agencies and is the headquarters for all United Way operations in Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties. Major grants also have been made to Toledo area medical facilities, including the Medical College of Ohio.

In addition to large block grants, which would include the Masonic Auditorium, ongoing financial support is made available for many social agencies and many community and cultural activities such as the Toledo Zoo, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Toledo Symphony Orchestra.