

## Swain instrumental in Roane State's establishment of Scott Co. Campus

By TRACY POWERS FNB Guest Columnist

From the time he arrived in Scott County on June 3, 1942, to begin his professional life, W.H. Swain has played a major part in the remarkable progress that Scott County has forged. With his sights set just beyond the horizon, Bill Swain has been on the forefront of projects and initiatives to grow his community. Yet, in his own words, "none have had a more positive impact on the people of Scott County than Roane State Community College Scott County Higher Education Center."



**Roane State**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In a 1990 article for the First National Bank *Chronicle*, Mr. Swain not only thanked his community for the many opportunities he had been given but issued a challenge which brought Scott County residents together to build Roane State's permanent center. "The progress in Scott County has been significant," Mr. Swain said, "and yet we still have a long way to go. The economic future of our citizenry depends on its education." Thus began our journey . . .

Mr. Swain donated 39 acres to Roane State Community College for the construction of the permanent center. However, that was only his first act of generosity and civic service when it came to opening avenues to higher education for Scott Countians. He has been an ardent and frequent fund-raiser for Roane State in Scott County. He and his entire family have provided tremendous amounts of financial support for the college. When he sees a need, he works to fulfill it. He spearheaded the fund-raising drives to make three major additions to the campus since its 1994 opening: a state-of-the-art multipurpose science lab, a greatly expanded student lounge and a library twice the size of the original.

Mr. Swain and his son Mike have been active members of the Scott County Site Support Team. Mike Swain, in conjunction with the Scott County Hospital, is responsible for providing a Scott County Teacher of the Year Award, which includes \$500 and goes to a deserving professor who teaches at the Scott center.

Another example of Bill Swain's thoughtfulness: when the college and community feted him at a 75th birthday party at the campus, he asked that instead of gifts for him, well-wishers make gifts to the college.

Beyond the actual college building, Mr. Swain has worked to make the campus a more beautiful and pleasant place for students and the community. The campus now has a walking trail, a lake, a volleyball court, and a multipurpose athletic field. Also, the impressive sign marking the entrance to the campus is another testament to the Swain philosophy of, "If the college needs it, we'll get it done."

The Scott County campus is truly the community's college. Scott Countians wanted a campus, and they pulled together to build one. Today, they work to make the campus even better and Mr. Swain is often the driving force. Due to his hard work and tireless efforts, we are pleased to share with you in this 2004 edition of the First National Bank *Chronicle* that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of associate degree holders in Scott County almost doubled from 1990 to 2000.