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AVTI to note 30th anniversary

St. Cloud Area Vocational Technical Institute will observe its 30th anniversary with an open house 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The facility has not always been housed in its present location on Northway Drive. The school first offered vocational classes in the fall of 1948 in the shop areas of Technical High School.

Those first classes, attended by about 200 students, were in agriculture, business and distributive education, home economics machine shop and auto mechanics.

More space for expanded classes was provided in 1955 with construction of the H. B. Gough wing at Tech.

By 1964 the AVTI was serving

100 students, although twice as many were applying. Since Tech was growing and needed more space and a community survey showed a need for more technical workers, a bond issue for \$736,000 for a new building was put to St. Cloud voters.

The bond issue passed, and in 1966 the new AVTI campus opened, which provided 64,000 square feet of building space. Enrollment grew from 100 to 300, and courses offered increased from five to 15.

By 1968, double shifts had to be run to accommodate the 600 students.

The District 742 school board agreed in 1969 that AVTI facilities should be expanded to 200,000

square feet, which could accommodate 2,000 students and 40 subject areas.

A four-phase construction plan was approved by the board, and voters in 1969 passed a \$1,900,000 bond issue for the local share of the \$4,000,000 addition. The phases were completed in 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1975.

The AVTI now serves 1,500 full-time day students and 3,000 evening adult education students in a total of 150 courses.

AVTI alumni, friends and prospective students may attend the celebration Sunday, according to Director Donald Hamerlinck. Refreshments and special tours will be offered.