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UA3/3/5 President Kelly Thompson - Interviews/ Oral History

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**Western Kentucky University
UA3 President's Office
Series 3 Kelly Thompson
Subseries 5 Interviews/Oral History**



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Biographical/Historical Note: The president's office was created in 1906. Assistant to the President Edwin Kelly Thompson became acting president during Paul Garrett's last illness. Upon Garrett's death February 28, 1955 the Board of Regents approved Thompson to continue as acting president until a replacement could be found. He was elected president on October 17, 1955 a position he held until his retirement in 1969.

Kelly Thompson was born in Lebanon, Kentucky on January 28, 1909. He came to Western in the fall of 1928 on a football scholarship and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. Thompson spent his early career at WKU as college representative and publicity director. During World War II he served in the Navy, after which he returned to campus to work as an assistant to E.A. Diddle and President Paul Garrett. [Harrison, pp. 139-143]

During his tenure as president, Thompson oversaw a steady increase in student population which resulted in the construction of new buildings and WKU gained university status in 1966. He stepped down in 1969 and later went on to serve as president of the College Heights Foundation. Thompson died August 14, 1993.

Description: Interviews and oral history tapes of and about Kelly Thompson and subjects related to Western Kentucky University.

Dates: 1955-1969

Subject Analytics:

Audio recording
Basketball
Demonstrations
Diddle, Edgar Allen, 1895-1970
Interviews

Jackson, Carlton L.
Protest movements
Thompson, E. Kelly, 1909-1993
Western Kentucky University

Accession Information: These records were transferred to the University Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation: UA3/3/5 Kelly Thompson Interviews/Oral History, WKU Archives, Kentucky Library & Museum, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

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Finding Aid Report

05/01/2013

UA3.3.5	Records	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA3.3
Title	UA3 President's Office Series 3. Kelly Thompson Subseries 5. Interviews/Oral History	
Collection	WKU Archives	
Scope & Content	Interviews and oral history tapes of and about Kelly Thompson and subjects related to Western Kentucky University.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
Tape Box 1	Drawer 1	Jackson, Carlton	1977-1983	Kelly Thompson on E.A. Diddle - Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Audiotapes - 14			Subjects
	Carlton Jackson interviews w/ Thompson about Diddle, 1977 (9)			Basketball
	Crawford Crowe interviews w/ Thompson 1/2/1977 (4)			Interviews
	Times & Trials of School Administrators of a Half-Century Ago, 10/13/1983			Demonstrations
	Transcriptions available online at:			Protest movements
	Oct. 26, 1977 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/892			Audio recording
	Oct. 20, 1977 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/893			
	Jan. 2, 1977 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/894			
	June 27, 1977 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/895			
	July 7, 1977 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/896			
	Cherry, Henry			
	College Heights Herald			
	Diddle, E.A.			
	Faculty			