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## UA36I/5/4 E.A. Diddle Interview

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# Western Kentucky University UA36I Faculty/Staff Personal Papers Series 5 – E.A. Diddle Personal Papers

Item 4 - Interview

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**Biographical/Historical Note:** Edgar Allen Diddle was born near Gradyville in Adair County, Kentucky on March 12, 1895 to John Haskins and Mary Elizabeth (Hughes) Diddle. He attended Centre College in Danville from 1915 to 1917, entered the U.S. Army, then returned to Centre for a time. After coaching briefly at the high school level, Diddle arrived at Western Kentucky in 1922. He was initially athletic director and coach of all sports. As the Hilltoppers' men's basketball coach from 1922 to 1964, he compiled a career record of 759 victories and 302 defeats and took his teams to ten OVC championships, eight National Invitational Tournaments and three National Collegiate Athletic Association tournaments. WKU's Diddle arena was dedicated November 7, 1963 in his honor. E.A. Diddle married his former women's basketball player Margaret Louise Monin in 1923. He died January 2, 1970. He was inducted into Western's newly created Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991, and into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1992. (excerpts from Encyclopedia of Kentucky)

**Description:** Bob Cochran interview of E.A. Diddle.

Dates: nd

#### **Allied Materials:**

MSS Montell, B91A, F29 recording 31

UA1B3.3 – University Athletic Committee - <a href="http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\_ua\_fin\_aid/128/">http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\_ua\_fin\_aid/128/</a>

UA1C - University Archives Photograph Collection

UA1C11.16 - E.A. Diddle Photograph Collection -

http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc ua fin aid/98/

UA19 - Athletics Director's Records - <a href="http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\_ua\_fin\_aid/78/">http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\_ua\_fin\_aid/78/</a>
UA361.21 - William Jenkins Personal Papers - <a href="http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\_ua\_fin\_aid/22/">http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\_ua\_fin\_aid/22/</a>

#### **Subject Analytics:**

Athletics
Basketball
Centre College (Danville, KY)

Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937 Diddle, Edgar Allen, 1895-1970 Football Garrett, Paul Loos, 1894-1955 Thompson, E. Kelly, 1909-1993 Western Kentucky University

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

Access Restrictions: none

**Copyright Notice:** 

Preferred Citation: E.A. Diddle Interview, WKU Archives, Kentucky Library & Museum, Bowling

Green, Kentucky, USA.

### **Audiotape Recording List**

UA36I.5.4 ~ Records

12/15/2010

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
000-076	1-1		Childhood & Family Gradyville Flood 1907 Early education Brothers Jim, Charles, Bill, E.A. and George Uncle Jimmy Walker Uncle Edward Hughes Cousin Paul Hughes Grandmother ? Hughes Parents John Haskins Diddle & Molly Hughes
077-106	1-1		First basketball game at Monticello, ca. 1913 Transportation First car Diddle saw - driven by the Lt. Governor
107-183	1-1		Family farm & rural life Flour mill Mail delivery Baseball Presbyterian church, monthly circuit rider Reaper
185-195	1-1		Education Lindsey Wilson Training School in Scottsville, KY M & F High School (?) University
196-204	1-1		Living in Adairville, 1914
205	1-1		Vanderbilt University
206-267	1-1		Centre College in Danville, KY William Ganfield Basketball player Football player Alvin Nugent "Bo" McMillin Thad McDonald Bob Mathias Charley Moran
268-271	1-1		WKU undefeated against UK 1917-1924
272-303	1-1		Centre College football team No rules Enlisted in Army 1917 Returned to Centre College 1919 Basketball team Alvin Nugent "Bo" McMillin William Madison "Matty" Bell Allen Davis John Cooper
304-316	1-1		Coaching basketball at Columbia, KY
317-389	1-1		Hired at Greenview High School Wilson Smart Marguerite Fox Bob Myers
390-400	1-1		Coaching at Monticello, KY
401-424	1-1		History of Kentucky high school basketball tournament Centre College hosts in 1916 University of Kentucky hosts Somerset High School wins Henderson High School wins University of Louisville hosts
425-430	1-1		Centre College football team

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
431	1-1		Coach at Monticello, 1920
432-439	1-1		First visit to Bowling Green when the Centre College football players worked with a chautauqua company from Colorado, 1920-1923
440-559	1-1		Centre College athletics Dr. Gromer (?) coach "Uncle" Charley Moran Alvin Nugent "Bo" McMillin William Madison "Matty" Bell James "Red" Roberts Bill James Gus King Robert "Chief" Myers Centre College vs West Virginia Centre College vs Harvard Centre College vs Yale Centre College vs Princeton Howard Reynolds Ralph Horween of Harvard C6H0 James "Red" Weaver
560-624	1-1		Growing up Farming Logging Cumberland County, KY
625-692	1-1		Centre College Expenses John Y. Brown William Madison "Matty" Bell Jimmy Coleman Athletics Kentucky College for Women merged with Centre College
693-744	1-1		Military service during World War I, 1917-1919
745-750	1-1		Return to Centre College
000-039	1-2		Coach at Greenview High School tournament in Bowling Green, 1922
040-105	1-2		Henry Hardin Cherry Diddle comes to WKU Campus attitude towards athletics Construction of old football stadium Construction of gymnasium Big Barn aka Red Barn
106-135	1-2		E.A. Diddle bringing Kelly Thompson to campus
136-161	1-2		First football game in stadium Soup Oliver
162-182	1-2		Rivalry with Ogden College
185-202	1-2		Fred Reardon W.R. McCormack
203-245	1-2		Kelly Thompson Broadcasting games Thompson moves to Indianapolis Paul Garrett M.C. Ford Kelly Thompson's return as director of public relations
246-253	1-2		3 most important supporters of WKU basketball Fred Reardon W.R. McCormack Kelly Thompson
254-263	1-2		E.A. Diddle coaching all sports

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
264-271	1-2		Athletic buildings Football stadium Training School gym Physical Education Building aka Helm Library
272-292	1-2		First basketball game against Georgetown First football team, 1922 W.D. Croft Bob Price Maynard Botto Big Babe Hart Tony Horn Carmen Cartwright Eddie Ward Eligah Frazier Leonard Pitchford
293-341	1-2		WKU in 1922 600 students Faculty members Dean A.J. Kinnaman Macon Leiper George Page Ella Jeffries Miss Wood Fred Mutchler Marion Ford L.T. Smith E.A. Diddle's history of WKU Henry Hardin Cherry Paul Garrett Kelly Thompson
342-325	1-2		Growth of WKU athletics W.B. Owen Willie White Eddie Ward Maynard Botto George Smith Leonard Pitchford WKU firsts WKU vs University of Mississippi Hugh Poland
386-414	1-2		Kelly Thompson arranging conference games Buffalo Oklahoma City Wichita Washington Ithaca Philadelphia Radio broadcasts of games
415-454	1-2		WKU Athletic Department history E.A. Diddle gives up coaching football and baseball Ted Hornback head of Physical Education
455-500	1-2		Stories about Seebree, KY Jimmy Smith Kelly Thompson Harry Potter
501-547	1-2		Basketball teams and players 1930's Bernard Hickman Harry Hardin Jack Farmer Tom Hobbs Paul Walker Brad Mutchler William McCrocklin Max Reed SIAA Championship WKU vs University of Louisville
548-562	1-2		WKU vs University of Dayton, 1950's Tom Marshall Dan King

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
563-649	1-2		WKU basketball 1940's Charlie Labhart John Oldham Chalmers Embry Oran McKinney NIT in New York Dero Downing Wallace "Buck" Sydnor Howard "Tip" Downing Billy Day Jim Callis Ray Blevins Carlisle Towery NCAA playoff against Duquesne University Ollie Olofson
650-656	1-2		E.A. Diddle on changes in the game of basketball
657-761	1-2		Basketball players and styles Ted Hornback Otis Denning 4 on 5 offense in 1920s Fast break plays Bernard Hickman Harry Hardin
000-048	2-1		Paul Garrett becomes WKU president Marion Ford candidate Governor Happy Chandler Paul Garrett candidate Tom Rhea political faction Ballot stuffing University status issue
049-075	2-1		Paul Garrett's presidency Kelly Thompson comes to WKU Garrett's illness and death of son Florence Schneider and embezzlement
076-102	2-1		Henry Hardin Cherry Arrest in Louisville
103-115	2-1		Arndt Stickles Kelly Thompson
116-137	2-1		E.A. Diddle's health Harlan Hodges, Murray State University basketball coach
138-157	2-1		Wife Margaret Monin Phi Kappa Tau dance Ward-Belmont College Basketball player for E.A. Diddle Married Dec. 27, 1923
158-167	2-1		Diddle's family: Ed Diddle Jr. Mary Jo married Jim Philips Granddaughters Margaret and Maisie Lynn
168-194	2-1		Changes on campus Administration Building Potter College Cabell Hall Cedar House Heating Plant
194-247	2-1		Army barracks used as athletic locker room Rex, Irish setter, mascot Practicing in quarry Old football stadium Early baseball diamonds Old fairgrounds
248-267	2-1		Faculty and staff Ted Hornback

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
			L.T. Smith Walter Nalbach Dr. ? Stevens Carl McNally Lois Dickey Roberta Moody Hubert Hardaway
268-289	2-1		Moved into house in October 1944 Used to house basketball players - Diddle Dorm Transportation to games Trains Leaking Lena bus Interview ended abruptly by telephone call