

1960

UA11/1 Preparing for the Future

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WESTERN
KENTUCKY
STATE
COLLEGE

*The Spirit
Makes
The Master*

ERECTED BY
COLLEGE HEIGHTS
FOUNDATION

IN COMMEMORATION OF
WESTERN'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

1956

Preparing
for
the
Future



Cherishing
Guiding
Preparing

*Cherry Hall,
named for Western's founder,
dominates the view
from below. It is
the main classroom building
on the campus*

WESTERN KEN

High atop a hill that once held Civil War fortifications stands the institution with the most loyal alumni in the state, Western Kentucky State College. It is the subject of this fifth special report on the public institutions of higher education in Kentucky.

The first president of Western, Dr. H. H. Cherry, was a great educational leader. He had the idea that Western's true role was in the training of leaders for all walks of life. Down through the years his "dream of leadership" has been a cherished possession "on the hill."

Western is a good illustration of how leadership can be developed for many areas of human endeavor. Primarily a teacher education institution, it has also provided hundreds of individuals with training in such areas as agriculture, athletics, and government.

In the fateful years ahead, institutions of higher education, such as Western, have a very important role to play in identifying and developing leadership potential.

COVER: Twenty-Foot Pylon
which stands at the
entrance to Western's Campus.

THE PAST THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE

Reported by Robert G. Cochran
Gerald Jagers

TUCKY STATE COLLEGE

Resolution

Whereas, Western Kentucky State College is enjoying one of its greatest eras of growth, not only physically but also intellectually, academically, and morally; and

Whereas, the citizenry of Kentucky will benefit from this wholesome program for many decades to come; and

Whereas, these salutary results are indicative of the highest type of executive and administrative proficiency so competently demonstrated by the vision, wisdom, planning, and efforts of Dr. Kelly Thompson and the capable staff which he heads.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State College hereby extends an enthusiastic vote of commendation, continuing confidence, and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Kelly Thompson and to his able staff for their dedicated efforts far beyond the call of duty.

This the 18th day of May, 1960, at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

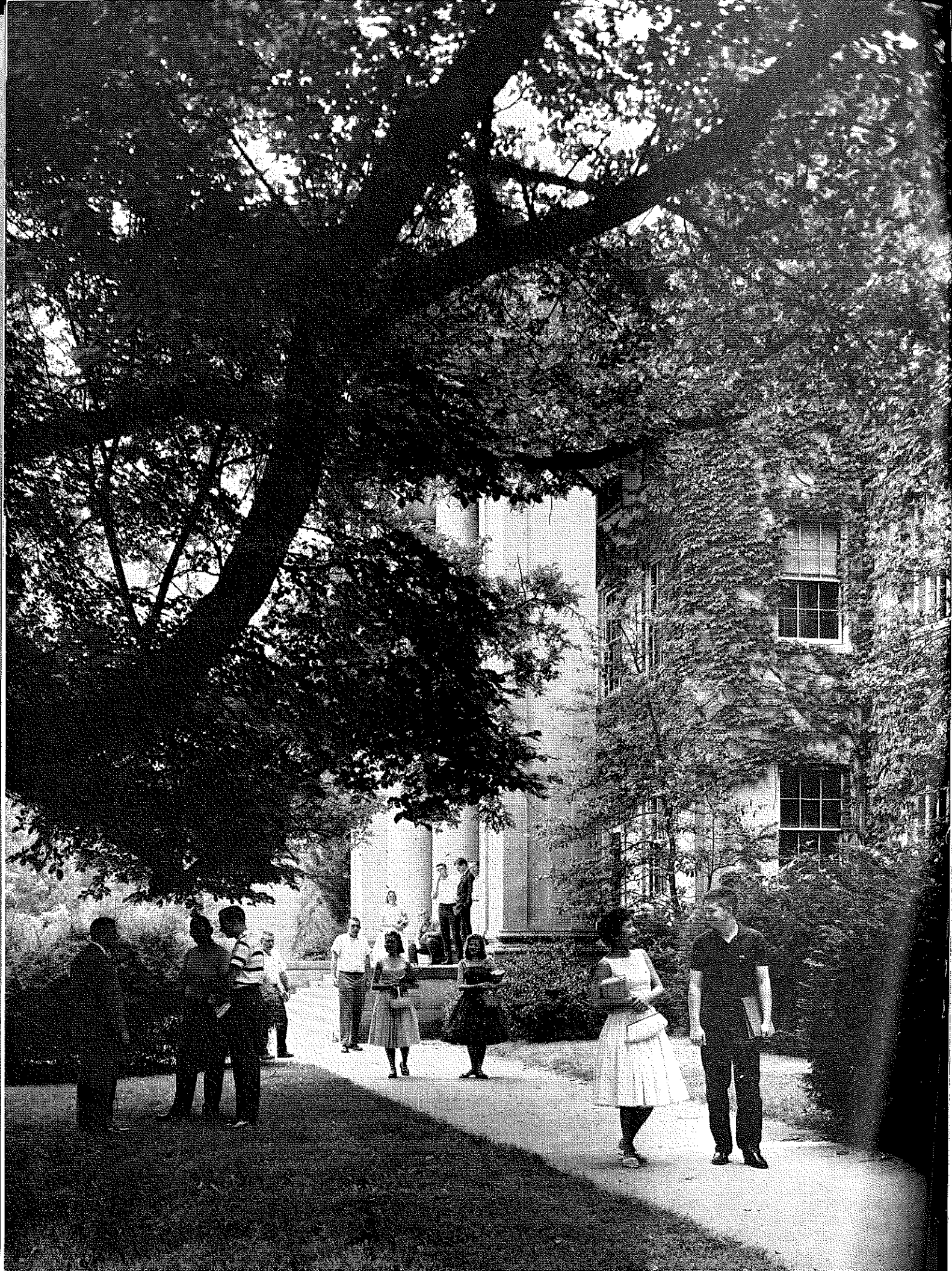
KEYNOTE: PROGRESS

This is a momentous time for Western Kentucky State College. The keynote is progress, out of a cherished past, into plans for a streamlined future.

The very air on the hilltop campus is charged with a sense of urgency. Change, improvement, and expansion appear almost daily. The faculty and staff, in a sense, are in a race to prepare for the future before the problems of that future catch up with them.

For several years, the problems with which education will be faced in the decades ahead have been of increasing concern to the college leadership. The sense of "moving forward" has been gaining momentum.

Long-range plans for the future, in many areas of the college's operations, have been evolved. At the same time, day-to-day problems of living in the present have been met and solved. With future plans in clear focus, Western can now look forward to making them "come to life," and to providing for a better life for those to whom educational opportunities are important.



WESTERN- *has a Tradition..*

If an institution ever can lay claim to a personality all its own, then Western Kentucky State College can be said to have an educational personality that mirrors the native background of the vast majority of its students. There is a casual, first-name familiarity about the institution that has been retained over the years as the school grew from a relatively few students to an enrollment of 3600, and as the physical plant expanded to more than 30 major buildings.

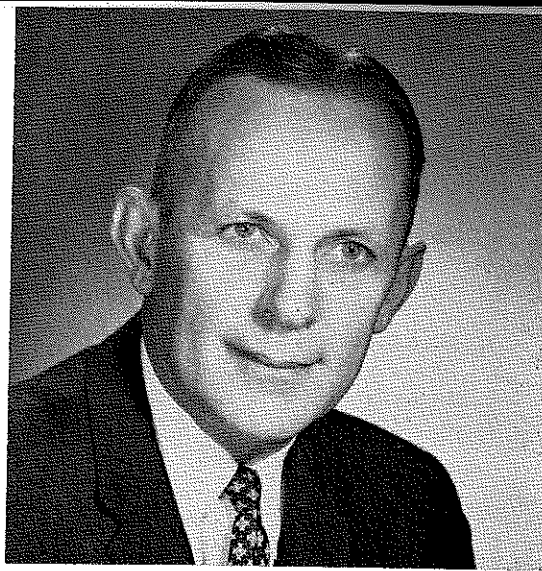
More than that, there is a personal relationship among students, faculty, and staff that has survived the years. No office of faculty or other staff members ever is closed to the students. It was the policy of Western's founder, Dr. Cherry, that students should never be denied the right to see the president on any matter, large or small. That policy was continued by Dr. Paul L. Garrett, who succeeded Dr. Cherry; and it was broadened by Dr. Kelly Thompson when he assumed office as the third president of the college.

As a consequence, Western presidents have been drawn closely to the students. They have had the opportunity to review student problems of every type, ranging from the need for financial help, to leaky faucets in the dormitories.

Beneath the exterior of maximum teacher-student communication, there is the solid academic foundation of Western, the characteristic that has made its contribution to Kentucky's welfare so substantial and real.

Teachers and administrators trained at Western are to be found in almost every school system in Kentucky, as well as in many other states. Six graduates have served as college presidents. Others of the 9253 men and women who have been awarded the baccalaureate degree, plus the 962 who have earned the master of arts degree, since 1924, have gone on to attain success in medicine, law, dentistry, teaching, journalism, gospel ministry, and various other professions.

As with many institutions of higher education, the past few years have been the most eventful years in the history of the school. An almost endless parade of changes has taken place on the hilltop. The entire structure of the school—curriculum, faculty, organization, campus, physical plant—has been surveyed, overhauled, enlarged, and reshaped to meet the school's responsibility in the changing world of today.



Dr. Kelly Thompson, the third president of Western, has occupied that position since 1955. In recognition of the progress made under his leadership, he was named "Kentuckian of The Year," in 1960, by the Kentucky Press Association.

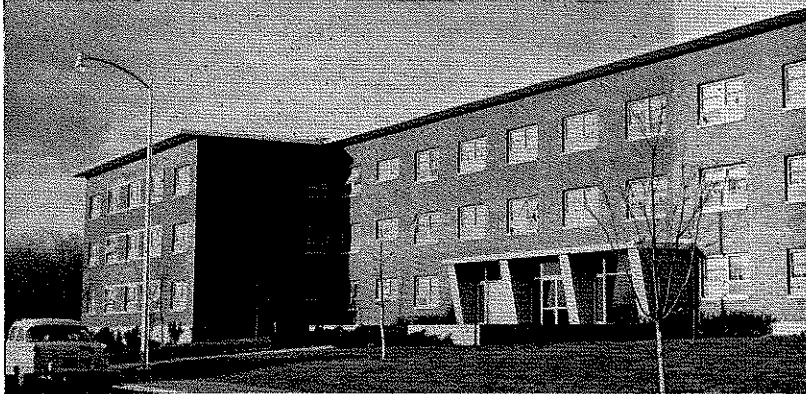
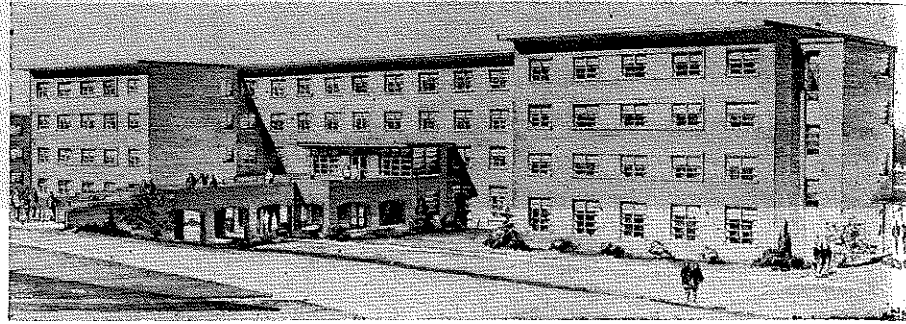


Dr. Paul Garrett became Western's second president in 1937. His greatest concern was for the welfare of the students.

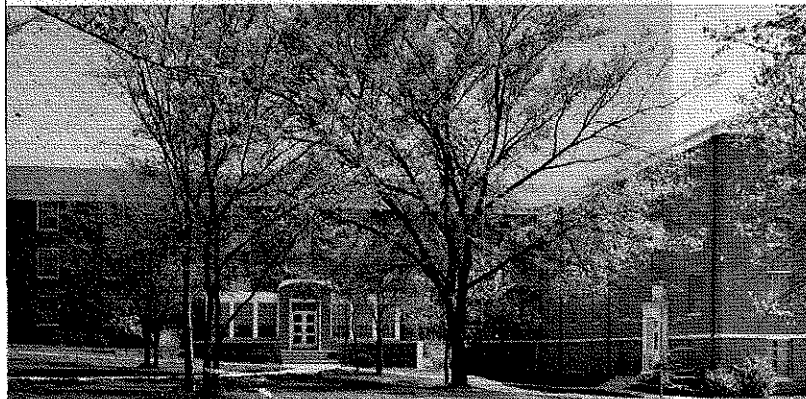


Dr. H. H. Cherry was the founder of Western. He is the one who expressed the Western spirit in words: "A college is not its campus, its walks, its buildings. A college is an ideal, a spirit, a long tradition, a zeal for more life and more knowledge."

This new, \$700,000 dormitory is now under construction. It includes a grill and snack bar accommodating 350 people, and housing space for 200 men.



North Hall, a dormitory for men, was opened in 1956. An almost identical building, East Hall, was opened at the same time. Together, they house 420 students. Another dormitory, opened in 1960 in the same area, houses an additional 208 men.



This is one of the new residence halls for women. It was opened for use in September, 1959, and provides accommodations for 184 women.



This is a typical classroom scene in Cherry Hall.

WESTERN-

Western Kentucky State College dates back only to 1906. However, it has ancestral roots reaching back 31 years beyond that date, to the time of the Southern Normal School, from which it emerged.

Southern Normal was founded by Dr. H. H. Cherry, and when the Kentucky Legislature authorized the establishment of two normal schools for teacher training, in 1906, it was transferred to the State. Dr. Cherry became president of the new institution, named Western Kentucky State Normal School. The name was whittled down to the present form, gradually, over the years.

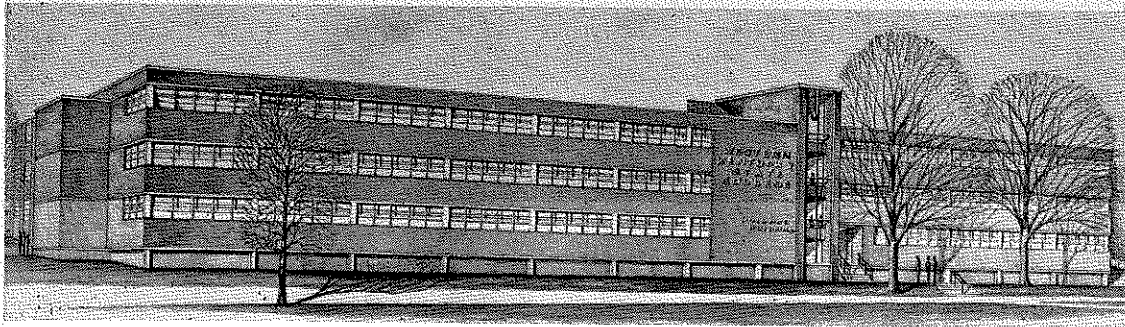
Until 1911, Western occupied the grounds of the original institution, an area now providing a home for the Bowling Green College of Commerce. At that time, it moved to College Heights, the prominence on the western edge of the city, where General Albert Sidney Johnston had erected a fort in 1861 to give Confederate forces command of the broad valley of the Barren River.

Later, when the Confederate armies were forced to retreat into Tennessee, General (later President) Benjamin Harrison commanded the Union garrison which took over the fort. The upper tier of buildings at the college surround what remains of the fortifications. The deep, rock-lined trenches now serve as campus walkways.

In 1928, Ogden college, a private school adjoining the Western campus, and which dated back to pre-Civil War days, leased its property to Western and became part of the school.

Visitors continually acclaim the Western campus as one of the most beautiful in the country. The hilltop location dominates the scene on every road leading into Bowling Green. A continuing campus beautification program is always underway, and the setting is being improved.

With Western's enrollment having doubled in the



New \$1.5 million science building scheduled for use in 1961.

has a personality all its own . . .

past five years, the school has been pressed for both classroom and dormitory space. The classroom problem has been met by remodeling and expanding existing buildings, and by a unique plan of scheduling classes. The living quarters problem was solved by the simple expedient of spending about \$2.5 million on new dormitories in a four-year period.

The new plan for arranging classes is called "step scheduling." It represents a break with the traditional idea that classes must be scheduled at the same hour every day. Under the new plan, classes are arranged when rooms are vacant, regardless of day or hour. Almost 100 per cent utilization of classroom space has been achieved.

It is significant that this step scheduling, and other innovations, have enabled Western to handle its expanded instructional program, and its increased enrollment, without the addition of a single new classroom building. All of the present physical facilities have been revamped in a vast housekeeping program, but the new \$1.5 million science building now under construction will be the first classroom building erected since 1937.

While the shuffling of schedules and other measures provided for meeting classroom space requirements, adequate dormitory space called for a different approach. The students who have flocked to Western in record numbers had to have rooms in which to live. The policy of the college has been to direct most new building activity toward the provision of living quarters, before tackling the problem of more classroom space.

To that end, four new dormitories have been erected since 1956, a fifth is under construction, and architectural plans for a sixth have been completed.

During the time that effort has been concentrated on providing new buildings to meet current needs, the school

has been aware of the future, when Western will be faced with its greatest challenges. Five new buildings are planned for the immediate future, including an academic-athletic building to provide needed classroom facilities and a modern gymnasium-auditorium, a new training school, and three dormitories.

The combination gymnasium-auditorium will be arranged for use for basketball games, general assemblies, dramatic productions, musical shows, and will contain thirty classrooms. When the new building is completed, the existing gymnasium will be converted to house some of the academic departments now located in Cherry Hall, the main classroom building on the campus.

A new training school would release the present structure for conversion to still more college classroom space. The new dormitories, including two for women and one for men, will house more than 800 students.

Since 1958, more than \$326,000 in grants has been received by Western from the National Science Foundation. This money has provided funds for research, in-service institutes, and summer science training programs for science and mathematics teachers and for high school students.

And, so, Western cherishes its rich past, adjusts to the present, and prepares for the future.

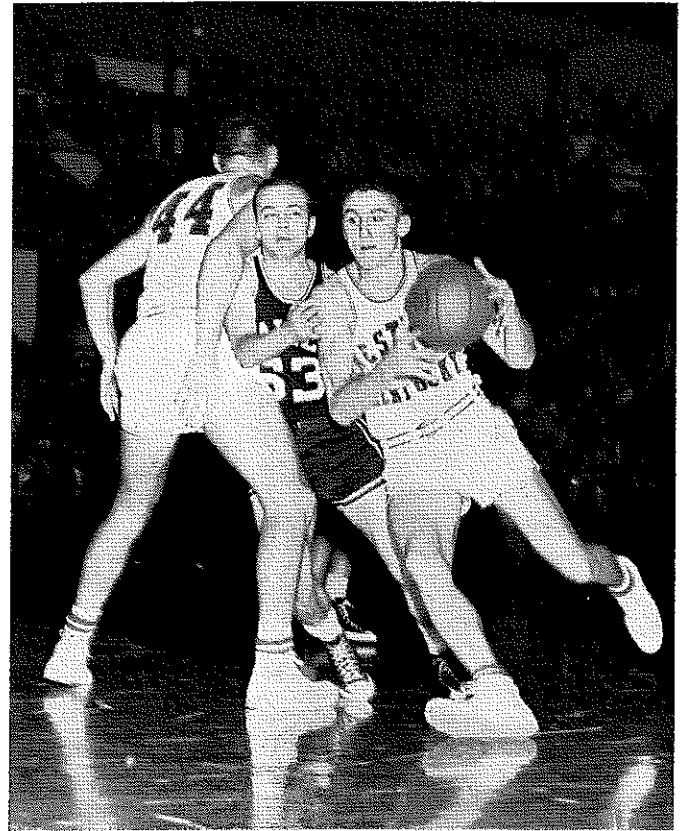
Western is a college that has developed tradition without losing its sense of responsibility or the distinctive features of friendliness and wholesomeness that were incorporated into its structure by its founder.

It also is a college dedicated to preparing men and women for service in a swift-moving world, without sacrificing those intangible assets.

That is the Western spirit.



Alice Chumbley, right, who was Miss Kentucky for 1960 and a senior at Western, crowns Diane Robinson at the 1960 Homecoming Queen.



The Hilltoppers, Western's representatives in basketball, have for many years brought honor and recognition to the school through their skill and ability.

WESTERN - has a living legend . . .

Western Kentucky State College is the home base for one of Kentucky's living legends: Edgar Allen Diddle, the colorful, towel-waving coach of the college's perennial basketball powerhouse. In the 38 years he has directed Hilltopper teams, Diddle has won more games than any other coach in the history of the game while at the same college.

The more than 100 championship cups and

trophies which line the entrance foyer of the Student Union Building attest to the strength of Western's athletic representatives.

The policy always has been that the teams belong to the students. Practice sessions are seldom closed to them; seats in the present cramped facilities of the gymnasium are assigned student and faculty members before tickets are offered for sale to the general public.

The student body and the faculty joined together in 1906 in the move to the new hilltop campus

