

1968

UA37/5/4 E.A. Diddle Interview

Robert Cochran

E. A. Diddle

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Western Kentucky University
UA37 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. Digitized as m334.wav, m335.wav and m336.wav

Dates: nd

Allied Materials:

[UA1B3/3 University Athletic Committee](#)

[UA1C11/16 E.A. Diddle Photo Collection](#)

[UA19 Athletics Director's Records](#)

[UA37/21 William Jenkins Personal Papers](#)

Subject Analytics:

Athletics

Athletics (WKU)

Basketball

Centre College (Danville, KY)

Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937

Diddle, Edgar Allen, 1895-1970

Football

Garrett, Paul Loos, 1894-1955

Interviews

Thompson, E. Kelly, 1909-1993

Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Oral History

Sports Management

Sports Studies

Audiotape Recording List

UA37.5.4 ~ Records

12/15/2010

| Media ID | Side | Start time | Subject |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| 000-076 | 1-1 | | <i>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</i> |
| 077-106 | 1-1 | | <i>First basketball game at Monticello, ca. 1913 Transportation First car Diddle saw - driven by the Lt. Governor</i> |
| 107-183 | 1-1 | | <i>Family farm & rural life Flour mill Mail delivery Baseball Presbyterian church, monthly circuit rider Reaper</i> |
| 185-195 | 1-1 | | <i>Education Lindsey Wilson Training School in Scottsville, KY M & F High School (?) University</i> |
| 196-204 | 1-1 | | <i>Living in Adairville, 1914</i> |
| 205 | 1-1 | | <i>Vanderbilt University</i> |
| 206-267 | 1-1 | | <i>Centre College in Danville, KY William Ganfield Basketball player Football player Alvin Nugent "Bo" McMillin Thad McDonald Bob Mathias Charley Moran</i> |
| 268-271 | 1-1 | | <i>WKU undefeated against UK 1917-1924</i> |
| 272-303 | 1-1 | | <i>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</i> |
| 304-316 | 1-1 | | <i>Coaching basketball at Columbia, KY</i> |
| 317-389 | 1-1 | | <i>Hired at Greenview High School Wilson Smart Marguerite Fox Bob Myers</i> |
| 390-400 | 1-1 | | <i>Coaching at Monticello, KY</i> |
| 401-424 | 1-1 | | <i>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</i> |
| 425-430 | 1-1 | | <i>Centre College football team</i> |

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

| Media ID | Side | Start time | Subject |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| 264-271 | 1-2 | | <i>Athletic buildings Football stadium Training School gym Physical Education Building aka Helm Library</i> |
| 272-292 | 1-2 | | <i>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</i> |
| 293-341 | 1-2 | | <i>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</i> |
| 342-325 | 1-2 | | <i>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</i> |
| 386-414 | 1-2 | | <i>Kelly Thompson arranging conference games Buffalo Oklahoma City Wichita Washington Ithaca Philadelphia Radio broadcasts of games</i> |
| 415-454 | 1-2 | | <i>WKU Athletic Department history E.A. Diddle gives up coaching football and baseball Ted Hornback head of Physical Education</i> |
| 455-500 | 1-2 | | <i>Stories about Seebree, KY Jimmy Smith Kelly Thompson Harry Potter</i> |
| 501-547 | 1-2 | | <i>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</i> |
| 548-562 | 1-2 | | <i>WKU vs University of Dayton, 1950's Tom Marshall Dan King</i> |

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

| Media ID | Side | Start time | Subject |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| | | | <i>L. T. Smith Walter Nalbach Dr. ? Stevens Carl McNally Lois Dickey Roberta Moody Hubert Hardaway</i> |
| 268-289 | 2-1 | | <i>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</i> |