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"THANK YOU, WESTERN"

WESTERN
KENTUCKY
From
BOWLING GREEN - WARREN COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE

*The Spirit
Makes
For 60 Years of Outstanding Service*

OFFICED BY
COLLEGE HEIGHT
FOUNDATION
IN COMMEMORATION OF
WESTERN'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY
TESTIMONIAL DINNER
1966

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1966

5:00 P. M. (CST)

MAIN BALLROOM

PAUL L. GARRETT STUDENT CENTER



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

EDWARD T. BREATHITT
GOVERNOR

February 26, 1966

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

The Faculty
The Administrative Staff
The Students
The Alumni
Friends Everywhere

For sixty years Western has served the cause of education in Kentucky and has helped make the Commonwealth a land of greater opportunity for her citizens.

At this time it is a pleasure for me to salute Western and salute the people of Bowling Green for their support of Western and for their loyalty to the college that means so much to them.

I, with you, look forward to Western's future. I am convinced it will continue to lead and to serve the youth of Kentucky and to provide them inspiration and knowledge for better lives.

I could not pay tribute to Western without paying tribute to those who have served the college as president. H. H. Cherry and Paul L. Garrett were leaders whom Kentucky will not soon forget. Kelly Thompson has followed their path and their example and today is one of our most valued and distinguished citizens.

Western as it stands today is a monument to these men and countless others who have devoted their lives and themselves to its building. I congratulate all who have been responsible and predict that their institution will serve with even more success in years to come.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Breathitt

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

1906 - 1966

Western Kentucky State College was established by act of the 1906 Kentucky Legislature. However, Western's ancestral roots reach back 31 years beyond that date to educational institutions from which it emerged.

Dr. H. H. Cherry founded the Southern Normal School and when the Legislature authorized the establishment of a normal school for teacher training in Bowling Green in 1906, it was transferred to the State. Dr. Cherry became president of the new institution, named Western Kentucky State Normal School.

In 1922 the Legislature changed the name to Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College and granted to Western the right to confer baccalaureate degrees upon its graduates.

In 1930 the name was changed to Western Kentucky State Teachers College and in 1948 to its present name.

Western first began offering the Master of Arts degree in 1931. This program was discontinued from 1936 to 1941 but was resumed in 1941 and has enjoyed continuous growth since. A Graduate School has been established and the Masters degree in Education and in Engineering Physics are offered.

Over its entire 60 years of existence Western has experienced steady growth and progress under its three presidents.

Dr. Cherry served as president from 1906 until 1937. Dr. Paul L. Garrett served as the second president from 1937 until 1955.

Western's present president, Dr. Kelly Thompson, took office October 17, 1955 after serving the college in numerous administrative positions since the day he entered the college as a freshman from Lebanon, Kentucky, in September, 1928.

The greatest growth has been experienced since 1955. The enrollment has increased from 1684 to 7824.

Curricular developments since 1955 include the establishment of five colleges, eleven new departments, and three specialized areas; the addition of sixteen new majors, seventeen new minors, and five areas of concentration; the awarding of ten additional degrees and certificates; the inauguration of four additional professional and pre-professional curricula; and many other revisions which marked significant progress in this important area of Western's total operation.

January 22, 1966, was a historic day in the life of Western when President Thompson presented to the Board of Regents the Master Plan for the future. The Board approved this Master Plan which was fourteen months in development. It calls for facilities to accommodate 16,000 students—39 major buildings with all the necessary auxiliary facilities for an expansion of such magnitude.

Thus, today, a sense of urgency permeates the entire campus as faculty and administrative staff, alumni, students and friends everywhere look to Western's future for greater and greater contributions to Kentucky and to the nation.

PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE
of the
COUNTY OF WARREN
KENTUCKY

WHEREAS, Western Kentucky State College for 60 years since its establishment as a state educational institution has by its presence and function contributed immeasurable to the educational, cultural and economic life of Bowling Green and Warren County;

WHEREAS, Dr. E. Kelly Thompson has provided Western Kentucky State College with able and outstanding leadership during the 10 years since he became its president.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bowling Green and Warren County have arranged a Western Testimonial Dinner at the Paul L. Garrett Student Center Ballroom preceeding the Western-Murray Homecoming Basketball Game and half-time ceremonies during the game at the E. A. Diddle Arena February 26 to honor the college and its president.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that Saturday, February 26, 1966, be Western Kentucky State College Day in Warren County.

Basil Griffin
Basil Griffin, Judge
Warren County, Kentucky

WALTER F. WEBB
Mayor

City of Bowling Green

Office of the Mayor
BOWLING GREEN, KY. 42101

PROCLAMATION

Whereas Western Kentucky State College for 60 years since its establishment as a state educational institution has by its presence and function contributed immeasurably to the educational, cultural and economic life of Bowling Green and Warren County:

Whereas Dr. E. Kelly Thompson has provided Western Kentucky State College with able and outstanding leadership during the 10 years since he became its President:

Whereas the citizens of Bowling Green and Warren County have arranged a Western Testimonial Dinner at the Paul L. Garrett Student Center Ballroom preceeding the Western - Murray Homecoming Basketball Game and half-time ceremonies during the game at the E. A. Diddle Arena, February 26, 1966 to honor the College and its President:

Now therefore BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that Saturday, February 26, 1966 be Western Kentucky State College Day in Bowling Green.

Signed

Walter F. Webb
MAYOR

PROGRAM

This dinner is dedicated to Western Kentucky State College for 60 years of outstanding service to the youth of Kentucky and
to Kelly Thompson for his leadership as president of the institution for the past 10 years.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mr. E. O. "Buddy" Pearson

Invocation ----- The Reverend J. E. Jones

"Thank You, Western" from ----- Mr. Pearson
Friends Everywhere

Introduction of Speaker ----- Mr. J. T. "Top" Orendorf

Principal Address ----- The Honorable James F. Gordon
U. S. District Judge,
Western District of Kentucky

Response from Western ----- Dr. Kelly Thompson
President

Recess to E. A. Diddle Arena in the
Academic-Athletic Building
for presentations

at halftime of Western-Murray game
Mr. Charles Stewart, Chairman, Halftime Ceremonies

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE

Mr. Houston Griffin, Chairman

Mr. Edward E. Vanzandt	Mrs. Jane Morningstar
Mr. Charles Campbell	Mr. Herbert J. Smith
Mr. E. O. "Buddy" Pearson	Mr. Charles Stewart
Mr. J. David Francis	Mr. Harold Huffman
Mr. J. Murray Hill, Jr.	Mr. Harold McGuffey

WESTERN AS IT WAS



Pictured above is Recitation Hall which stood at the head of College Street where now stands Henry Hardin Cherry Hall. This was a magnificent view on February 11, 1911 when Dr. H. H. Cherry led his faculty and student body up College Street to the new campus atop College Heights. Recitation Hall served as the main classroom building until the coming of Cherry Hall in 1937.



This was Western's gymnasium in the early days. At one time the need for housing accommodations was so great this structure was used as a girl's dormitory. This building gave way to the spacious Health and Physical Education Building in 1931 which in turn was enlarged and reconstructed into the magnificent Margie Helm Library in 1965 after the coming of the Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena in 1963.



Shown here is an aerial view of the Western campus taken on a bright spring day in April, 1965. Today, this picture is already outdated. The new Commerce-Education classroom building now ready for occupancy, is not shown. The new nine-story dormitory for women under construction on the Kentucky Building Grounds is not shown, nor are the two nine-story dormitories for men under construction at the corner of 17th Street and Normal Drive pictured. These three dormitories will be ready for occupancy in September of this year.

A picture taken today will be outdated by this time next year as a new Science Complex is ready to be constructed on the Ogden campus adjacent to the present Kelly Thompson Science Hall. A new Administration Building will be built during the coming year and the Athletic Complex, along with the additional dormitories, will be under construction this year in accordance with the Master Plan.

Growth and expansion are swift, but Western under its able leadership is in step with the times, and is ready for the challenges higher education faces in the future.

GENEALOGY OF WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

