1911

UA3/1/5/3 Will You Help? / Catechism

Western Kentucky University

Henry Cherry

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Plan for the Campus of the State Normal School in the Western District of Kentucky

1. New Vassar Hall and Administration Building
2. Men's Training Building
3. Gymnasium
4. Boys' Boarding Home
5. Elementary Department
6. Girls' Boarding Home
7. Model Training School
8. Science Hall
9. Library
10. Residence of Superintendent of Grounds
11. Athletic Field Demonstration Station
12. Lighting, Heating, and Power Plant

Building 6 occupies the location of the present Potter College building. The building has been removed and made into handsome classroom. Building 1 is completed and is now occupied by the school. It will be dedicated May 3, 1911. All other work is now being done.

This plant is being constructed in honor of CHILDHOOD, and will, when completed, reflect the spirit and patriotism of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Regents are pursuing a policy that will invest every dollar paid by the taxpayers of Kentucky and appropriating the land for the Normal School so that it will be in such a way as to make it one of the most beautiful institutions in the United States.

Every dollar is invested in a new plant that will have, at its completion, economy, comfort, beauty, and patriotism. The Regents submit the completion of this patriotic enterprise to the people of Kentucky, fully realizing that it will take time to finish. But, at the same time, expressing the hope that the race this will witness its completion.

The new home of the Western Normal will hereafter be known as Normal Heights.
CATECHISM
By H. H. Cherry, President,
Western Kentucky State Normal School

What precedes identity?
Realization of reality precedes identity.

What is one of the highest duties of man?
To realize that he possesses a spirit that is capable of masculinity, positive, poised, sympathetic, growing life, and to realize this possession until he experiences and accomplishes visibly.

What was the beginning of this building?
Spirit brought this building into existence; spirit must vitalize it into usefulness and give it perpetuity. Unless it is vitalized with the spirit of service, it will become material deadness.

In what form did it first appear?
It was first a vision, a mental picture.

How was this vision accomplished?
Through personal and public interest and efficiency—a patriotism that learns, loves, serves.

What is our present duty?
It is our duty to idealize this great building by hard analysis, by expressing its harmony, its order, its articulation, its inspiration, and its significance in our lives; by high life, high thought, high ideals, and a noble service; by seeing to it that its nobility is not marred by a single mark on a single wall or desecrated in any other way; by making the beautiful surroundings and aspects which we shall witness from this hill the stage of a soul in a world of promise and opportunity and the setting of a soul amidst the splendors of a life well lived; and by making this beautiful physical panorama that we shall witness from this hill-top and from classroom windows a spiritual panorama to be transmitted into life.

In whose honor was this building constructed?
This building is a part of a proposed educational plant which will, when finished, reflect twentieth century democracy and be a credit to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is being developed in the honor of Kentucky's children and in the interest of spiritual efficiency.

To whom does the Western Normal belong?
It is a human stock company. The people are the stockholders. Its dividends go to all the people of the State.

About how much would it cost to complete the proposed educational plant shown in the perspective on the two preceding pages?
A statute authorizing the appropriation of $19,000 annually for ten years would complete the plant.

What was the fundamental educational thought that led to the establishment of the Normal?
It was established in the interest of moral, intellectual, spiritual, physical and industrial thrift. It seeks to accomplish this end by giving the teachers of Kentucky an opportunity to have more life to give to the children of Kentucky.

How was a good school without a good teacher?
We may have modern schoolhouses, longer school terms, local taxation, consolidation, and all other things that enter into a well-ordered school and school community; but without the vitalizing touch of properly qualified teachers, schoolhouses will become dead matter, school terms will be too long; local taxation unprofitable; and consolidation a failure.

What is the logical place of the Normal School in the school system?
Behind an efficient Commonwealth is an efficient citizenship; behind an efficient citizenship is an efficient public school system; behind an efficient public school system is the efficient teacher; behind the efficient teacher is the Normal School and other agencies that seek to train the teacher for efficiency. There is but one thing that is of more value to our school system than a physical piece of equipment— that is a spiritual piece of equipment—a teacher whose life will be a river in a dry place. In other words, a teacher's vision, a teacher's preparation, a teacher's conscience, a teacher's missionary intensity. The W. S. N. S. was established by Kentucky in the interest of teaching efficiency. The Normal School is inseparably linked with the common schools of the State. They live and breathe together. It is an organic part of the common school system. Any man who is against it is against the common schools.

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BOWLING GREEN
KENTUCKY

The questions and answers on the last page of this folder were prepared to be read at the first Chapel Exercises held in the new Vanmeter Hall, February 6, 1911.