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# A Study of the High School Graduates of the Todd County School System, Todd County, Kentucky

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Taylor,  
Sylvia Everett

1956

A STUDY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF THE  
TODD COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, TODD COUNTY, KENTUCKY

BY

SYLVIA EVERETT TAYLOR

A THESIS  
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

JULY, 1956

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Approved:-

Major Professor  
and  
Department of Education  
Graduate Committee

Francis Jones  
Chase

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to express her sincere appreciation to her Major Professor, Dr. Lee Francis Jones, for the valuable guidance and counsel which made this study possible.

The writer is also grateful to Mr. Claude Hightower, Superintendent of Todd County Schools, for his administrative and personal assistance.

It is with gratitude that acknowledgements are given Mrs. Sara Carneal, Director of Pupil Personnel, Todd County Schools; Miss Mary Fyke Power, Teacher in the Todd County System; Miss Virginia Hill, Secretary to the Superintendent of Todd County Schools; Miss Shirley Gates, Senior in Todd County High School; and to the graduates of the Todd County School System who so willingly aided the writer in obtaining the information desired.

CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION

"America's guiding star, in her progress as a nation and in the advancement of her people as individuals, has been and still is equality of opportunity. In this persistent research for equality among men, America has cherished the public secondary school as a symbol of that dream, as the promise of better things to come."<sup>1</sup>

"Secondary education should be determined by the needs of the society to be served, the character of the individuals to be educated, and the knowledge of educational theory and practice available.

"The purposes of the American secondary school are not new; it is only the proposals for attaining those goals that keep shifting with the times."<sup>2</sup>

"Secondary education should give primary attention to developing citizens competent and willing to make every needed sacrifice to make democracy work for all men."<sup>3</sup>

Our schools must meet more of the needs of our high school youth for after all human life, happiness, and well being are to be valued above all else.

"The European secondary school of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was restricted to students from upper economic and social levels. The American nineteenth century secondary school broke rather abruptly with this class tradition.

"The high school is America's educational contribution to the world. There is no other institution like it. It has been called 'the great American experiment,' 'the greatest of all inventions,' and 'the people's college.'<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Harold Spears, The High School For Today (New York, American Book Company, 1950), p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 24.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 41.

<sup>4</sup>Rudyard Bent and Henry H. Kronenberg, Principles of Secondary Education (New York and Chicago, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1949), p. 1.

We are indebted to the Latin grammar school for keeping learning alive and continuing the growth of the secondary school. It laid the foundation for a newer and more progressive school.

"The aims of the American secondary school are broad, general, and flexible. Our American secondary schools are not dominated by tradition and conservatism as are the secondary schools in some countries. However, since the Second World War the trends in other countries have been definitely toward greater democratization."<sup>5</sup>

Due to the recent social changes, our secondary programs must be adapted to meet the needs and interests of our present-day society. Secondary school enrollments have increased a great deal bringing more and more varied interests and abilities into our schools; therefore, it behooves the secondary schools of today to offer a more comprehensive program.

"It is the belief of most authors that secondary education should be an instrument of democratic policy in the United States of America. Its primary obligation is thought to be that of helping all our boys and girls to grow into young men and women who are mentally and physically fit, who will become good homemakers, competent workers, and active, socially conscious citizens of our representative democracy."<sup>6</sup>

We know secondary education has not generally carried out all of these responsibilities and certainly not for all youth.

"The education of a youth in the broad sense is the resulting effect of all the experiences he has had in the total environment in which he lives."<sup>7</sup>

Since the majority of our high school graduates receive little or no additional education after graduating from high school; it is important that the high school of today offers a more extensive program to meet their specific needs of life.

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<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 18.

<sup>6</sup>B. L. Dodds, Will French, and J. Dan Hull, American High School Administration (New York, Rhinehart and Company, Inc., 1951), Preface p. v.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 37.

## CHAPTER II

### STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS, SOURCES OF DATA, TECHNIQUE OF TREATMENT AND SIMILAR STUDIES.

This survey was prompted by a desire on the part of the writer to ascertain to what extent the high schools of Todd County are meeting the needs of the high school graduates and in what ways the academic courses are preparing them for occupations or college training after graduation.

#### Statement of Problems:

1. To find the number of high school graduates from 1951 through 1955.
  - a. Who entered college.
  - b. Who married.
  - c. Who went to work and type of job.
2. To find the college entered and objective.
3. To find occupation of those who did not enter college.
4. To find age at time of graduation.
5. To find some causes for not attending college.

#### Sources of Data:

The data used in this study include:

1. School records on file in the offices of the county superintendent and attendance officer of Todd County Schools.
2. Records on file in principals offices of the three high schools used in the study.
3. Data obtained through individual interviews with many of the teachers of Todd County, through interviews with

parents, relatives, of the graduates and pupils.

4. State Highway Department.
5. Professional textbooks and periodicals.

Technique of Treatment:

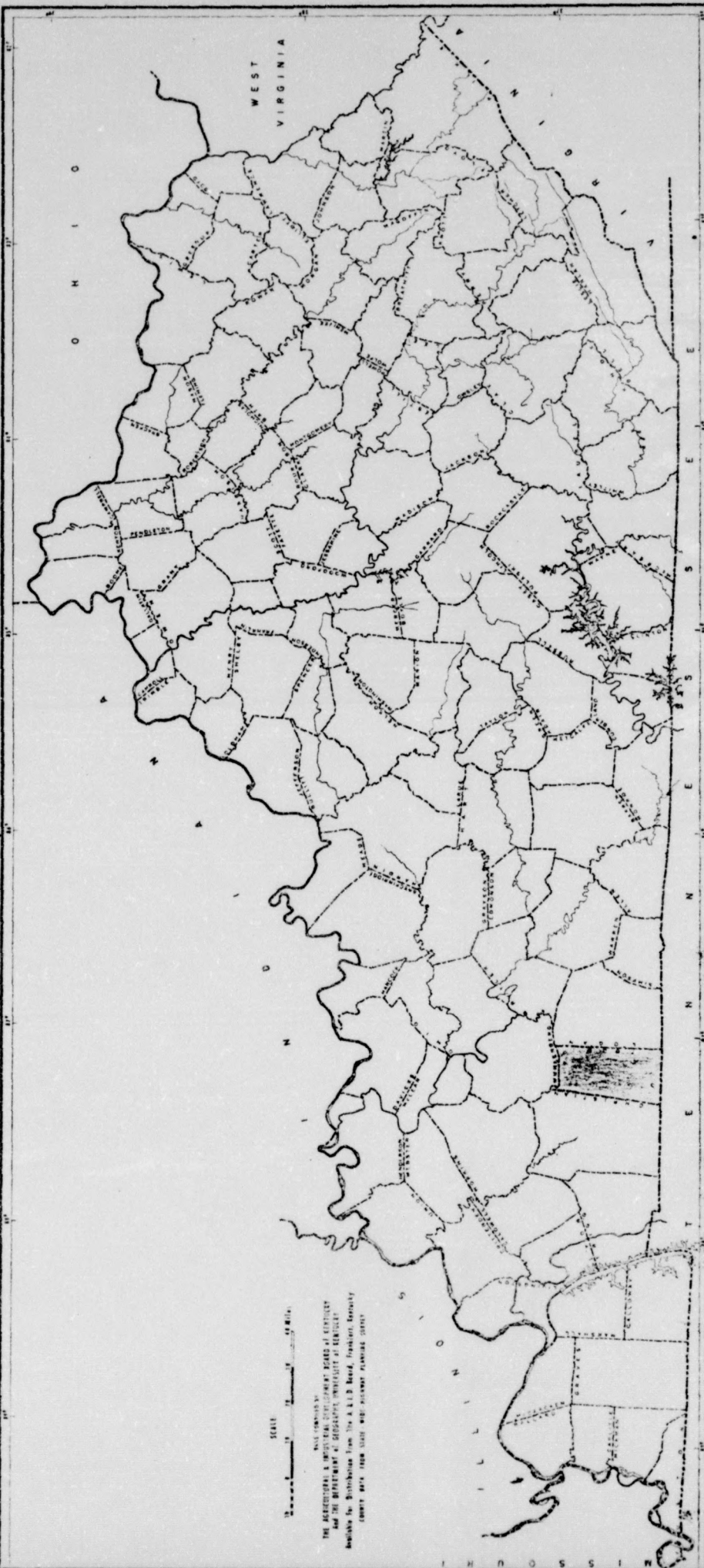
The writer examined several theses during the months of 1955-1956. Many visits were made to the county superintendent's and attendance officer's offices and access was had to any and all records which were on file there. Many trips were made for individual conferences and some correspondence was necessary in order to get information on all graduates.

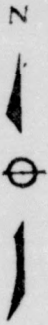
Much research was done in periodicals and professional books during the writer's weeks of residence.

Similar Studies:

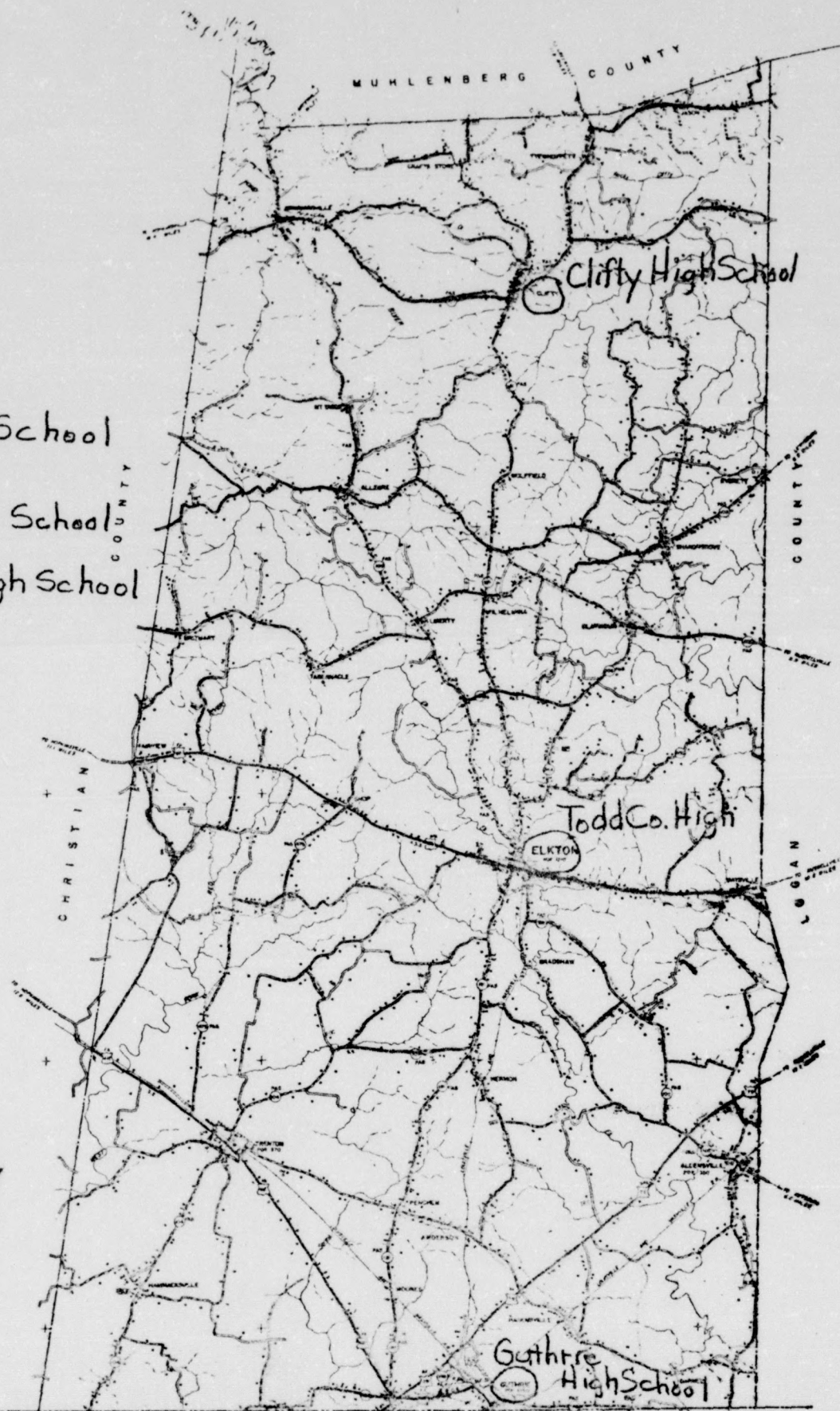
1. A Study of the Eighth Grade Graduates of the Barren County Schools, 1951, by Lenis Reece.
2. Relative Scholastic Success of College Students from High Schools of Varying Sizes, by Leonard Lee Hudson.
3. A Study of the High School Graduates of the Barren County School System of Barren County, Kentucky, by Woodford L. Gardner.
4. Proposed Reorganization of the School System for Barren County, Kentucky, by Nathaniel Wilson Burks.
5. Improvement of Todd County Schools in Action, by Virginia Latham Hightower.
6. A Study of the High School Graduates of Bullitt County, Kentucky, by Thomas S. Jeffries.

MAP I  
 LOCATION MAP, TODD COUNTY, IN RELATION TO KENTUCKY





- Clifty High School
- Guthrie High School
- Todd County High School



HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION  
MAP  
**TODD COUNTY**  
KENTUCKY

PREPARED BY THE  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS  
DATA OBTAINED FROM  
STATE-WIDE HIGHWAY PLANNING SURVEY

SCALE

### CHAPTER III

#### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF TODD COUNTY

During the period from 1951 to 1955 the Todd County school system consisted of three consolidated white high schools and one consolidated colored high school, which is not included in this study, three elementary white schools, and two elementary colored schools. In 1952 when this study began there were four one-teacher rural schools in operation but at the present time there are no one-teacher schools in the Todd County school system.

In Map 1, Location Map, Todd County, is shown in relation to Kentucky. In Map 2, is shown a map of Todd County, the location of each consolidated high school and the area from which each draws its pupils.

The composite list of high school graduates from the three consolidated high schools (white) during the period from 1951 to 1955 was 288, of this number seventy-two (which is 31.57 per cent) entered college. Two had some additional training in commercial work after graduating from high school, one had some nurse's training and there was one death. This shows a total of seventy-five who received some additional training after high school graduation.

The writer was fortunate in being able to obtain information on all of the graduates for the four years from 1951 to 1955. All except one are still living.



TABLE I  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FROM EACH OF THE THREE HIGH SCHOOLS

Number Graduated				
Year	Clifty	Guthrie	Todd Co. High	Total
1951-1952	14	10	24	48
1952-1953	18	11	27	56
1953-1954	19	9	26	54
1954-1955	24	14	32	70
TOTAL	75	44	109	228

1

Table I shows a comparison of the three consolidated high schools as to number of graduates.

During this period four students received diplomas by taking G.E.D. tests. Due to the fact that they were not considered four-year high school graduates they were not included in this tabulation.

---

<sup>1</sup>Taken from the original files in the Todd County Superintendent's office at Elkton, Kentucky

TABLE II  
TABULATED DATA OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF EACH HIGH SCHOOL THAT ENTERED COLLEGE

Year	Clifty	Guthrie	Todd Co. High	Total
1951-1952	4	4	7	15
1952-1953	2	1	11	14
1953-1954	5	7	9	21
1954-1955	5	4	13	22
TOTALS	16	16	40	72
PER CENT	21.33	36.36	36.69	31.57

In studying Table II we find a comparison of the three high schools as to the number and per cent of graduates that entered college. We find a range of high school graduates entering college from 21.33 per cent at Clifty to 36.69 per cent at Todd County High. This does compare favorably with Barbara H. Wright's statement: "Keep in mind that in most localities not more than a third of the pupils graduating from high school will go on to a school of college grade."<sup>2</sup>

Although the range is not wide there could be several reasons for it, such as:

1. Geographic location.
2. Lack of guidance.
3. Parents less financially able to send children to college in one community than the other.

---

<sup>2</sup> Barbara H. Wright, Practical Handbook for Group Guidance (Chicago, Science Research Associates, 1948 ), p. 95.

4. Marriage before or soon after graduation.
5. Not many people in the community have gone to college.
6. Lack of encouragement from the parents.

The average per cent of graduates that entered college from the three high schools was 31.57.

TABLE III  
TABULATED DATA CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AS TO COLLEGES ENTERED

<u>College Entered</u>	<u>Number Entered</u>
Murray Kentucky State College - - - - -	16
Austin Peay State College - - - - -	12
Western Kentucky State College - - - - -	11
Bethel Junior College - - - - -	9
Bowling Green Business University - - - - -	6
Falls Business College - - - - -	4
University of Kentucky - - - - -	3
Kentucky Bible College - - - - -	2
Transylvania - - - - -	1
Centre College - - - - -	1
Judson College (Ala.) - - - - -	1
University of Louisville - - - - -	1
Campbellsville Junior College - - - - -	1
Nashville Business College - - - - -	1
University of Missouri - - - - -	1
David Lipscomb - - - - -	1
Purdue - - - - -	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>72</u>

In studying Table III, we find that the seventy-two high school graduates attended seventeen different colleges with sixteen entering Murray Kentucky State College, eleven entering Western Kentucky State College. Twelve entered Austin Peay State College, which is out of the state but is easily explained because of the short distance from Todd County. A total of twenty-one went out of the state to college.

CLIFTY HIGH SCHOOL

CLIFTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL  
IN YORK COUNTY N. Y.

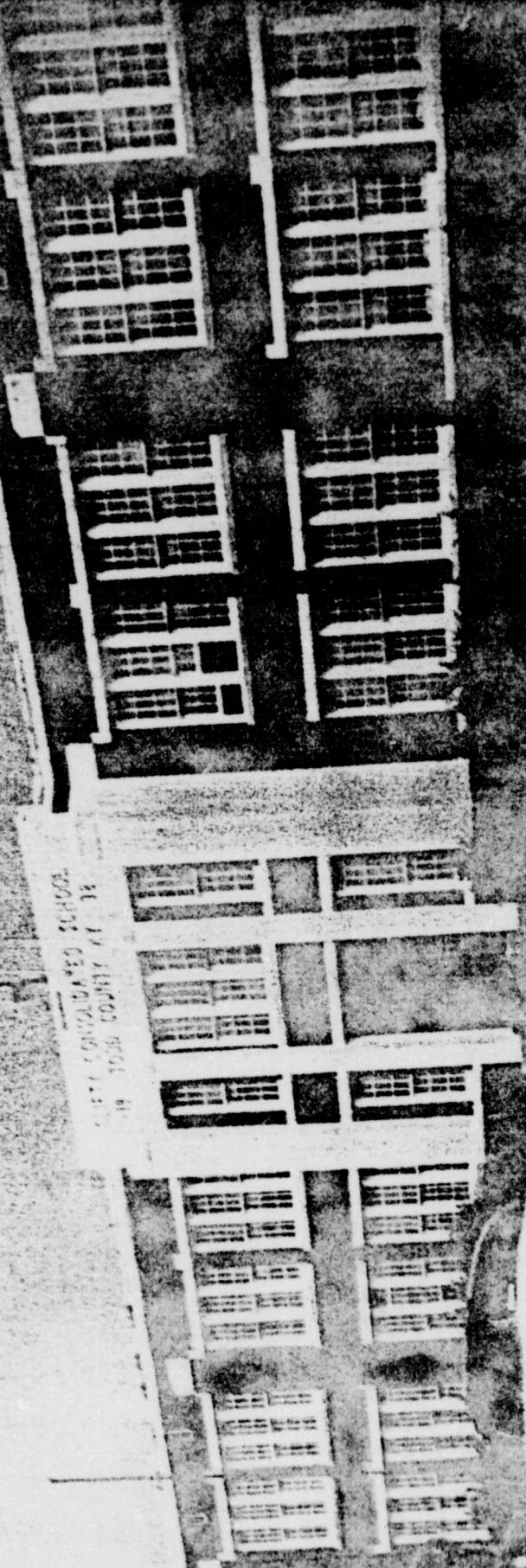


TABLE IV  
TABULATED DATA CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AS TO COLLEGE OBJECTIVE

<u>College Objective</u>	<u>Number</u>
Business Administration--Accounting - - - - -	9
Secretary - - - - -	9
Nurse - - - - -	7
Agriculture - - - - -	6
Elementary Teacher - - - - -	6
Music Teacher - - - - -	4
Physical Education Teacher and Coach - - - - -	4
High School Teacher - - - - -	3
Lawyer - - - - -	3
Home Economics Teacher - - - - -	3
Engineering - - - - -	2
Laboratory Technician - - - - -	2
Industrial Arts - - - - -	2
Minister - - - - -	2
Liberal Arts - - - - -	2
Doctor - - - - -	1
Science (Pharmacist) - - - - -	1
Bookkeeper - - - - -	1
Missionary - - - - -	1
Journalism - - - - -	1
No Objective - - - - -	3
<hr/>	
TOTAL	72
<hr/>	

In the analysis of Table IV, we find the college objectives of the seventy-two graduates entering college totals twenty different objectives. The largest number was found to be preparing for business administration, accountants, and secretaries, and the next largest number preparing for nursing. Twenty were preparing for school teaching in some field. Three had no objective.

TABLE V  
TABULATED DATA OF GRADUATES OCCUPATION WHO DID NOT ENTER COLLEGE

Occupation	Vocational Training in High School	Total
Air Force	0	6
Army	0	11
Assistant Store Manager	1	1
Beautician	0	1
Bookkeeper	1	1
Bulldozer Operator	0	1
Clerk in Bank	1	1
Clerk in Store	0	8
Coast Guard	0	1
Factory Worker	0	30
Farmer	14	19
G. E. Plant Employee	1	1
Government Worker	1	1
Housewife	40	40
Marines	0	1
Mechanic	1	1
Minister	0	1
Navy	0	7
Office Worker	5	5
Railroad Worker	0	1
Secretary	2	2
Telephone Operator	0	1
Truck Driver	0	1
Waitress	1	1



TABLE V (Continued)

Occupation	Vocational Training in High School	Total
Working at Hospital - - - - -	9 - - - - -	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>152</b>

In studying Table V, we find that the 152 high school graduates that did not enter college are engaged in twenty-five occupations. The occupation of housewife ranks first with forty, followed by thirty factory workers and twenty-five in the armed services.

Out of the occupations held by the 152, seventy-seven of them received some vocational training that is a help in their present jobs. By adding the seventy-two who entered college, the two with additional commercial work and the one with nurse's training, we get a total of 152 that have been helped by the high schools of Todd County in meeting their needs toward their work for life.

Entered College - - - - -	72
Special Commercial Work - - -	2
Nurse's Training - - - - -	1
Deceased - - - - -	<u>1</u>
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>228</b>

GUTHRIE HIGH SCHOOL

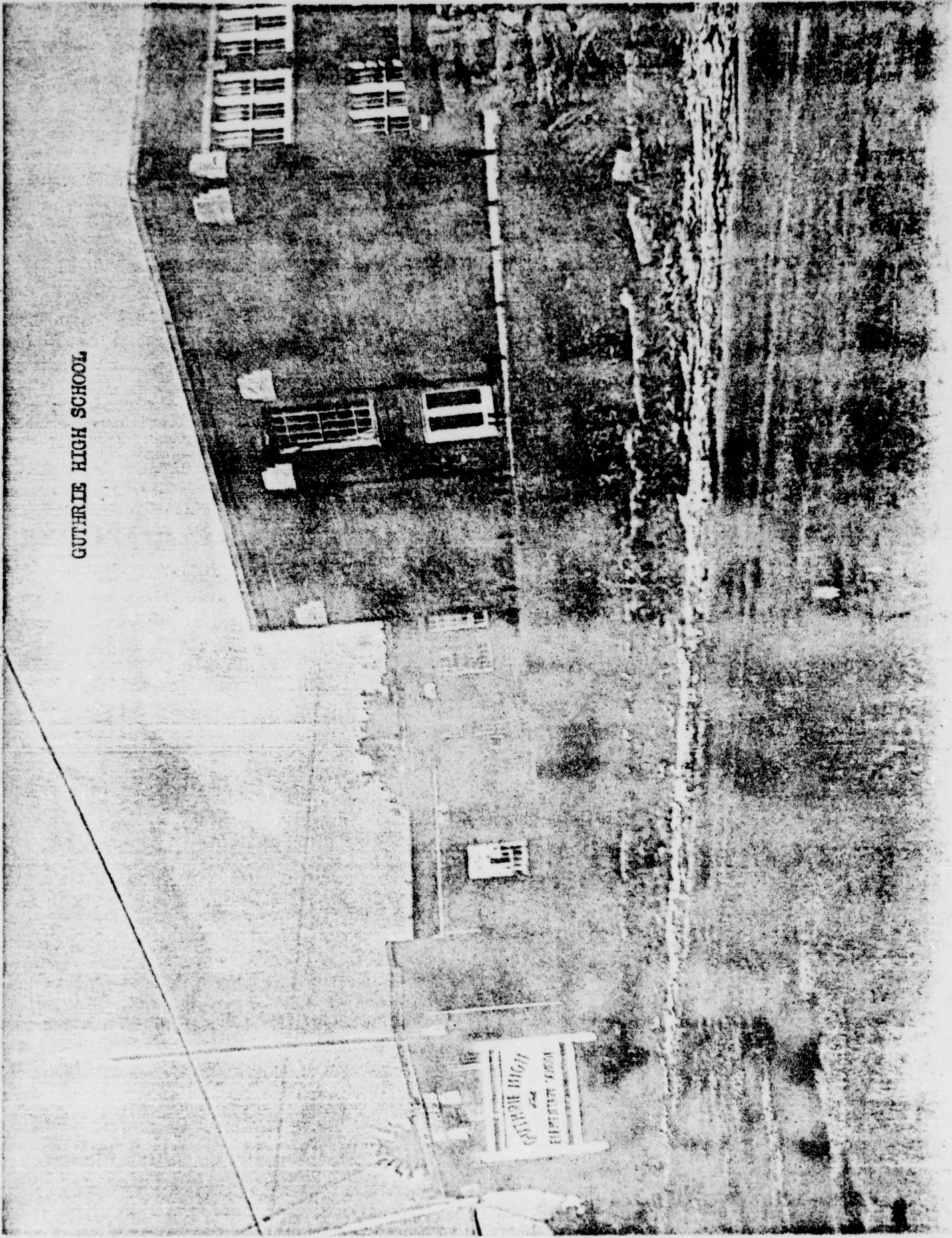


TABLE VI  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BY AGE GROUPS  
AGE IN YEARS

Year	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Total
1951-1952	0	1	36	8	2	1	0	48
1952-1953	1	5	34	11	2	1	2	56
1953-1954	0	1	35	15	1	1	1	54
1954-1955	0	7	36	19	7	1	0	70
TOTAL	1	14	141	53	12	4	3	228

By studying Table VI, we find the ages of the graduates ranging from sixteen years to twenty-two years with the age of eighteen years appearing with the greatest frequency.

The average age of the high school graduates at graduation for each of the three high schools are as follows:

Clifty High School - - - - - 18.44 years

Guthrie High School - - - - - 18.34 years

Todd County High School - - - 18.28 years

The average age for all the county high schools is 18.37 years at the time of graduation.

TABLE VII  
TABULATED DATA OF MARRIAGE STATUS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Year	Sex	Married	Single	No Children	One Child	Two Children
1951-1952	Boys	6	17	5	1	0
	Girls	16	9	6	8	2
1952-1953	Boys	3	13	1	2	0
	Girls	17	23	10	6	1
1953-1954	Boys	3	20	2	1	0
	Girls	16	15	9	6	1
1954-1955	Boys	6	36	5	1	0
	Girls	6	22	6	0	0
TOTALS	Boys	18	86	13	5	0
	Girls	55	69	31	20	4
GRAND TOTALS		73	155	44	25	4

In studying Table VII, we find that seventy-three of the high school graduates are married or 32.06 per cent, 17.3 per cent of the boys are married and 45.9 per cent of the girls. Out of the seventy-three married, 60.2 per cent have no children, 34.2 per cent have one child and 5.4 per cent have two children. No graduate has more than two children. One member of the class of 1952 is now deceased.

The percentage of graduates that are married from each of the three high schools is as follows:

Clifty - - - - - 36 per cent  
 Guthrie - - - - - 34.09 per cent  
 Todd County High - - - - 28.4 per cent

Todd County High School, Elkton, Ky.

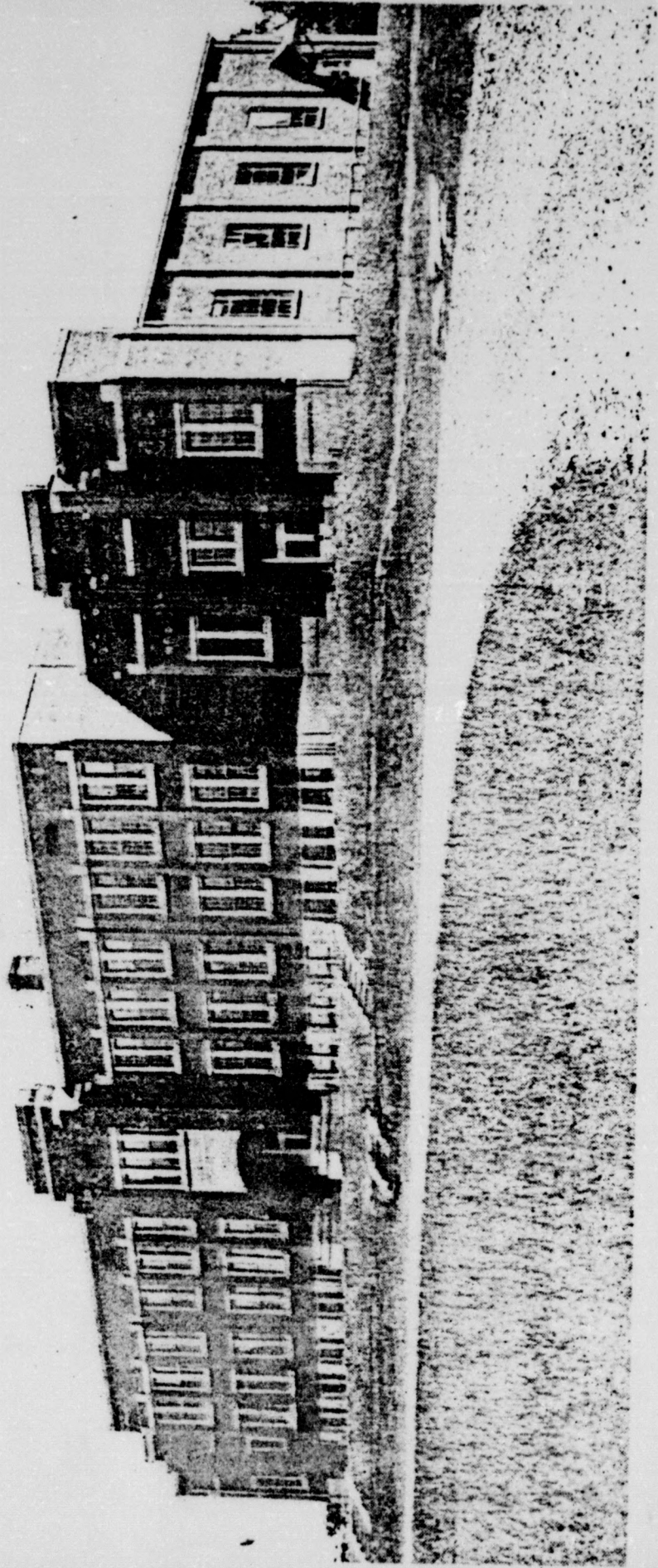


TABLE VIII  
 TABULATED DATA OF TWELVE CASES WHO DID NOT ENTER COLLEGE

Pupils*	Age When Graduated	Average Grade	High School From Which Graduated	Distance From Nearest College	Occupation of Parent	Year of Graduation
1	18	C	Clifty	50	Farming	1951-52
2	19	B	Clifty	42	Farming	1952-53
3	18	B	Clifty	47	Farming	1953-54
4	18	B	Clifty	44	Farming	1954-55
5	18	A	Guthrie	25	Merchant	1951-52
6	18	B	Guthrie	20	Farming	1952-53
7	18	C	Guthrie	28	Farming	1953-54
8	18	A	Guthrie	26	Farming	1954-55
9	18	C	Todd Co.	28	Farming	1951-52
10	16	A	Todd Co.	34	Farming	1952-53
11	18	B	Todd Co.	45	Mechanic	1953-54
12	18	B	Todd Co.	34	Carpenter	1954-55

\*Numbers were used instead of names of pupils.

Table VIII gives the personal data from each of the twelve pupils interviewed. Four graduates from each high school were chosen for the study, one was selected for each year. The students were interviewed from various localities.

Some of the reasons given by the graduates interviewed as to why they did not enter college were:

1. Married.
2. Lack of guidance.
3. Parents financially unable.
4. Entered military service.
5. Went to work.
6. Did not want more education.

In talking with these graduates it was found that several would have gone to college if they had received more guidance and encouragement from their teachers and parents.

TABLE IX  
HIGH SCHOOL COURSES RATED BY GRADUATES IN RELATION TO THEIR VALUE  
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Course	Rating
Home Economics - - - - -	Most Beneficial
Commercial - - - - -	Most Beneficial
Agriculture - - - - -	Most Beneficial
English - - - - -	Most Beneficial
Science - - - - -	Fairly Beneficial
Mathematics - - - - -	Fairly Beneficial
Health and Physical Education - - - - -	Least Beneficial
History - - - - -	Least Beneficial

In preparing Table IX, the graduates were asked to rate the above courses as to the most beneficial, fairly beneficial, and least beneficial. Students were asked to list courses that they would like to have had in high school. The course most frequently listed was more commercial work. Some other courses requested were industrial arts, chemistry, art, and music.



## CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Summary

The facts presented in this study relative to the 228 high school graduates of the Todd County High Schools during the period from 1951 to 1955 may be summarized as follows:

There were 228 graduates of the three high schools of Todd County during this period. Of this group, seventy-two or 31.57 per cent entered college and three took some additional training.

The seventy-two graduates who entered college attended seventeen different colleges with sixteen entering Murray Kentucky State College, and eleven entering Western Kentucky State College. Twelve entered Austin Peay State College, Clarksville, Tennessee, due to its being located so near Todd County.

There were twenty different objectives pursued by these seventy-two graduates with the greatest number, twenty, preparing for teaching in some field; and the next largest number, nine, preparing for business administration.

The 152 graduates who did not enter college are engaged in twenty-five occupations. In preparation for the occupations in which these 152 are now engaged, seventy-seven received some vocational training in high school which helps them in their present work. When we add the total of seventy-two who entered college to the seventy-seven who received vocational training and the three who received some additional training, we find that 152 were served advantageously by the high schools of Todd County in meeting their needs for their work.

Ages of the graduates vary from sixteen to twenty-two years of age. The average age of all graduates in the county was 18.37 years at the time of graduation.

There are seventy-three or 32.06 per cent of the 228 graduates married. Of the graduates 17.3 per cent of the boys and 45.9 per cent of the girls are married. Forty-four or 60.2 per cent have no children, twenty-five or 34.2 per cent have one child, and four or 5.4 per cent have two children.

The reasons given by the twelve graduates interviewed as to why they did not enter college were:

1. Married before or soon after graduation.
2. Lack of guidance by the teaching staff.
3. Parents financially unable to send children to college.
4. Entered military service.
5. Went to work.
6. Did not want more education.

The graduates indicated they felt the need of more guidance from their teachers. They felt that the subject fields should have been broader in order to take care of the needs of more students.

### Conclusions

This study indicates that the number of high school graduates from Todd County entering college compares favorably with the national average of 33 per cent, the average for Todd County being 31.57 per cent.

It is the opinion of the writer that not all graduates should enter college, however, many high school graduates in Todd County who are not entering college should be given more encouragement to do so.

There seems to be a definite need for a broader concept of guidance by teachers, administrators, parents, and all concerned with the educational process at the secondary level.

The proposed merger of the small independent district at Trenton with Guthrie will result in a broader program which will give more students the full benefit of vocational training.

It is the writer's opinion that Todd County is doing a better job of meeting the needs of its high school students than ever before, and under the Foundation Program of Kentucky more and better facilities will be offered which should encourage more students to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered them.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a central high school be constructed to take care of all the high school students in Todd County.
2. That a more comprehensive curriculum be offered to better meet the needs of the graduates.
3. That a testing program be established and more guidance given the students.
4. That high school teachers spend more time in building proper attitudes toward college entrance, especially with those who definitely should enter college.
5. That some means of financial aid should be made available to those graduates who are financially unable to attend college.
6. That similar studies be made of the Todd County graduates for use in evaluating the instructional and guidance program of the schools.
7. That a similar study be made of the graduates who enter college to see how well the high schools are meeting the students needs for their college curriculum.
8. That after the merger of all the high schools into one central high school, manual arts, shop work, art, music and more vocational training be offered to all students.
9. That the Board of Education with the County Superintendent of Schools initiate and maintain a program of supervision for the Todd County Schools.

10. That the excellencies and weaknesses of the schools be measured qualitatively.

TABLE X  
NUMBER OF FUTURE SCHOOLS FOR TODD COUNTY

Type of School	Number	Location
High School	1	Elkton
Elementary Schools	6	Allegre Clifty Elkton Guthrie Sharon Grove Trenton

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Power, Mary Fyke, Teacher in the Todd County Schools, Elkton, Kentucky.

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