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Western Kentucky University

Earl Moore

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WHAS Broadcast No. 54
February 16, 1937.
4:00-4:30 P.M.
From Extension Studio in Bowling Green

Strings and Voices  "College Heights."

Moore  Western Kentucky State Teachers College greets you all both
great and small with the words of our college motto ---

Voices  Life More Life.

Moore  Life More Life is our motto and our wish for all our listeners.

Vibraphone  Chords.

Moore  We open the fiftieth program of this series with a selection by
our studio string ensemble. The music on today's program is
dedicated to Dr. D. West Richards, Music Director of our Extension
Studio, who is ill at present in Youngstown, Ohio. We send him
greetings and wish him a speedy recovery. The ensemble plays "Sarabande,"
by Bohm.

Strings  "Sarabande."

Moore  We have these flood bulletins concerning missing persons.

Mrs. Daisy Johnson, of 320 W. Tenth Street, Bowling Green, has
been unable to hear from Herman Hill, who was stationed in CCC Camp
No. 3560 at Paducah, Kentucky. Repeating: Mrs. Daisy Johnson,
320 W. Tenth Street, Bowling Green, is very anxious to learn the
whereabouts of Herman Hill, who was stationed in CCC Camp 3560 at
Paducah, Kentucky.

Mrs. Josephine Wright, 320 W. Tenth Street, Bowling Green,
has been unable to hear from Bert C. Lee and family and Mrs. Lillie
Roberts, all of 501 East Parkway, Louisville. Mrs. Josephine Wright,
320 West Tenth Street, Bowling Green, has been unable to learn the whereabouts of Bert C. Lee and family and Mrs. Lillie Roberts, all of 501 East Parkway, Louisville.

Tomorrow will bring an important anniversary occasion—important in connection with the schools of our country. I refer to the fact that forty years ago tomorrow, February 17th, the Parent-Teacher Association movement was launched. During these four decades this enterprise has developed into a very significant part of our educational set-up. Our program this afternoon is devoted to celebrating this anniversary. We hear now Mrs. C. N. Jaggers, of Franklin, Kentucky, president of the Third District Association of the Parent-Teacher Association in Kentucky. Mrs. Jaggers' subject is "Looking Backward Forty Years." Mrs. Jaggers.

Mrs. Jaggers It is a well known fact that the success of an individual increases when he is frequently made aware of his progress. For this and other reasons it is well for us, the parents, teachers, and friends of childhood, on this the fortieth birthday of the Parent-Teachers Association, to pause in our forward march and count the achievements of the past four decades. In the brief time allotted me I find it possible to mention only a few of them. Many of the original objectives of this great organization are so vast in their scope, and so comprehensive in their nature that they can never be completely realized—-their accomplishment must be a process as continuous as childhood itself.

The Parent-Teachers Association, a most potent factor in parent education, had its beginning February 17, 1897, when its
founders, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, the first president and her associate, Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst, called together in Washington, D. C. many distinguished persons, representatives from every state and territory of the Union, for the purpose of placing a new emphasis on childhood. At this meeting the Congress of Mothers was organized, known since 1924 as the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. In an address of this kind it behooves us to say that to these two great souls we owe a lasting debt of appreciation and gratitude. The radiance of these two great personalities, whose hearts were impregnated with the love of childhood, falls undimmed across the stretch of forty years. It is the light of their lives which enables us to count, as we look backward for two score years, the achievements of the organization which they so firmly founded and gave an irresistible impetus.

In this review of forty years of service we see the pursuit and realization of such general ideals and objectives as conferences among parents upon questions most vital to the welfare of their children; cooperation of parents with educators and legislators upon the questions and methods of securing the best in the way of physical, mental, and moral training of our children; raising the standards of home life; bringing into closer relation the home and the school that parents and teachers may cooperate more intelligently in the training of the whole child.

Speaking more specifically we see thousands of pre-school children freed from physical handicaps as the results of the annual summer round up campaigns, and as the health efforts have been carried into the schools we see thousands more liberated from incipient diseases and restored to the status of normal school progress.
We can see literally hundreds of thousands of underprivileged children, undernourished, insufficiently clothed and without books, furnished these necessities, put into schools and given a chance in life. The cooperative work of parents and teachers has been the means of restoring to normality thousands of broken and unbalanced personalities; the so-called problem children of the old school days have been converted by understanding and sympathetic teachers and parents into normal pupils. The understanding of child life that has been gained from thousands of parent-teacher study centers has resulted in the recognition of the fact that the really normal child is the product of preventive measures rather than curative procedures. Yes, the P.T.A. was born forty years ago. It is not so old even when measured in terms of an individual's life and very young in terms of institutional life, yet its growth has been so rapid that one is compelled to ask for the cause of its every widening circles of influence. The answer echoes from nearly 2,000,000 members—fathers, mothers, teachers, as they repeat the words of the Master Teacher, "And a little child shall lead them."

Moore Thank you Mrs. Jaggers.

The Kentucky state president of the P. T. A., Mrs. E. W. Whitaker, of Frankfort, Kentucky, was scheduled to deliver an address on this program. On account of circumstances beyond her control, Mrs. Whitaker is unable to be in Bowling Green today. She has, however, sent the manuscript of her address to our studio. I am asking Mrs. W. M. Willey, chairman of the Bowling Green City Council of the P. T. A., to read Mrs. Whitaker's address. Mrs. Willey.
Mrs. Willey  This month of February 1937 marks the beginning of the
celebration which will be participated in by parent-teacher
associations throughout the nation. The occasion will be the
Fortieth Anniversary of the organization now known as the National
Congress of Parents and Teachers. To be of value, any anniversary
celebration such as this presents three distinct challenges: to
understand the past, to evaluate the present, and, in the light of
this understanding and evaluation, to plan a future that will insure
the conservation of the finest values of its heritage and a continuing
growth of influence and service.

In retrospect, we look on that first meeting held February 17,
1897. A great movement such as was founded that day, capable of
breaking through entrenched prejudices and opening up a new field of
scientific investigation does not spring into being on a certain day.
Back of this first meeting, if the records were available would be
found years of conviction, of struggle, of research and experimentation.

The statement of objectives as contained in the original charter
drawn that day is identical in meaning to the statement of ob-
jectives in the by-laws which govern the present organization and
the program of service has remained the same throughout the years.
"The object of this corporation", so the charter read, "shall be to
promote conference among parents upon questions vital to the welfare
of children, to further develop the manifold interest of the home,
to cooperate with educators and legislators, to secure the best
methods of physical, mental and moral training for the young, to
enlighten motherhood on all conditions of mothers in all walks of
life and to these ends promote the formation of Mothers Clubs in all states and territories of the United States."

As the work developed the mothers found that to have a well balanced, efficient organization they must link up with all the educative forces in the life of a child so fathers and educators were urged to join. Thus was the organization begun in that era that is being typified to the younger generation as the "Gay Nineties". Perhaps, even more suggestive of this age and more truly interpretive of its living and thinking than the Gibson girl contour, the huge pompadour or the Flora Dora sextette would be the earnestness of its women, their courage, vision, initiative and resourcefulness as marked by this new and thrilling venture they had undertaken in organizing to promote the welfare of children.

Today, we view the present organization with the intent of estimating its value and power in promoting the objectives for which it was founded. Active employment of the power of the combined forces of home and school for the improvement of community conditions is being used in this country and in almost every civilized nation of the world today. Methods, of course, vary because of the wide differences in educational and social systems. In the National Congress alone more than two million members representing approximately twenty-six thousand communities are combined for one purpose alone—the welfare of the children of the nation.

Subjects of vital interests to the parent-teacher associations are many and varied because the needs of children are so many and varied. An inviting field for study and activity is offered in such
subjects as Safety, Health, Recreation, the Fine Arts and Education with special emphasis on education for Parenthood and Family Living. What effect such study and endeavor are having in raising the standard of citizenship: of developing an alert and informed public opinion is not yet realized. Through this organization a solid front is presented by parents and teachers in safe-guarding youth in whatever direction their interests are endangered whether it is their health, their play, their vocation or their right to the security of an environment favorable to their becoming an adult citizen prepared to meet the great adventure of living intelligently, courageously, confidently. Such is the present program of the National Congress sent out through the channels of National, State, district, and council organizations to the local parent-teacher association which in the final analysis is the active agent in carrying forward this great movement. This is the present structure which has been built on the foundation of past experiment and achievements.

Finding our inspiration in yesterday's accomplishments, stimulated by today's activities we believe the forward look is best expressed in terms of hope and aspiration. Conditions and needs will change as time passes. New challenges will present themselves, new opportunities will arise and new problems will confront us but there will remain as long as human life and society remain the necessity for a close cooperation of the members of those agencies which are responsible for the guidance of the new generation. From the records of the past, from our knowledge of the present, the look into the future reveals a great group of people united in purpose and endeavor, devoting their efforts and their loyalty to the task of creating a world where children may grow up happy, healthy, noble and free.
This is the forward look we have for the organization whose
Fortieth Birthday we are commemorating tomorrow. Join with us
in this celebration. Be proud with us in the heritage of the past,
be happy with us in the endeavor of the present and anticipate with
us the fulfillment of hopes and aspirations for the future.

Moore: Thank you, Mrs. Willey. Mrs. Whitaker had consented to be
interviewed by Mrs. Willey on matters pertaining to the P.T.A.
Mrs. Willey's questions have been made known to Mrs. Whitaker, who
has kindly written answers to them. I have her manuscript before
me. All right, Mrs. Willey.

Mrs. Willey: Anniversaries—even Fortieth ones—are happy occasions,
aren't they? How is this celebration to differ from the ones carried
on each year by the local associations to commemorate the founding
of the organization?

Moore: Local associations will celebrate Founders Day in the usual
manner with appropriate programs and an offering to be used to extend
the work to unorganized communities. This year the National Congress
has also requested each local association and each State Congress
to plant a tree to commemorate this special birthday. Fitting
celebration will be observed at the State Convention in Frankfort
and at the National Convention at Richmond, Virginia, also.

Mrs. Willey: Do you think, if it were possible to turn back the hands
of time and invite our Founders to the programs we are having this
month, they would be pleased with our progress?

Moore: I sincerely believe they would, Mrs. Willey. The organi-
zation has been zealous always to keep before it the objects for
which it was founded. The effectiveness of its endeavor has been
commensurate with its growth in size.

Some of the charter members are enjoying with us this
celebration. They have expressed satisfaction and pride in the present development and achievements.

Mrs. Willey: You spoke in your talk of the program of service remaining the same throughout the years. It would seem some change or progress might be noted. Will you explain that statement more fully?

Moore: The program of service remains the same for the needs of children remain the same. Of course, new interpretations, new emphases and new demands are made as needs of children are modified by progressive ideas or social change. The organization's program of service to childhood is developed by a study of essential needs along three lines.

First: Home and Family Life,
Second: School and Home Cooperation,
Third: Community Development.

Mrs. Willey: How can the value of a local association be measured, then, in carrying out this program?

Moore: Evaluate the work in the degree that needs are met in that community along the three lines of service of which we have just spoken.

Mrs. Willey: What is the value to this local association of being a part of the National movement as interpreted by the National Congress?

Moore: An association in membership with the National Congress receives renewal of enthusiasm through state and national programs. It profits by the experiences of many units throughout the country. No work is being done today but through big organizations. There is an enormous educational value in mass movement and a personal benefit to each member is derived from being a part of this big national organization.
Mrs. Weller: Thank you, I appreciate having the information I requested. More than ever, I am convinced that organized parents and teachers have a definite place in the Education program of the state and nation; that the local association is a channel through which information may be disseminated on programs and plans in reference to education; on the changes, progress and development in schools and other community agencies. I concur with you in the belief that we are fulfilling to a satisfactory degree, the ideals of our Founders.

Moore: And now, we have in the studio two representatives of one of the local Parent-Teacher Associations here in Bowling Green, that of Western's Rural Demonstration School. Miss Ethel Clark, teacher of the school, and Mrs. A. V. Gretter, one of the parents, have been conversing in regard to certain matters pertaining to P. T. A. work. They have consented to reproduce a portion of their conversation before the microphone. Will you begin, Miss Clark?

Miss Clark: Mrs. Gretter, what type of program have the patrons found to be most helpful in our rural P. T. A. work at Western Teachers College?

Mrs. Gretter: We have found, Miss Clark, that the discussion type of program is the most helpful. It is far superior to any formal programs given for the purpose of entertainment.

Miss Clark: In these discussions what subjects are of most interest to the patrons?

Mrs. Gretter: The favorite discussion is about the physical and moral training of the children. We feel that in order to have our children get the most out of their school life we must keep them physically fit and teach them self-control and respect for law and order. We
also enjoy the informal programs given by the children. We wonder, however, how you find time to prepare the pupils for this sort of entertainment.

Miss Clark: The children in the Rural Training School of Western Teachers College receive very little extra help for these special occasions. The programs are a culmination of the pupils' regular school work. The songs, the folk dances, the choral readings, the story telling, and the dramatizations have all been learned during the music or the literature period. In arranging a program we simply select the numbers which we think the patrons would enjoy most. The pupils' talents should be developed but not exploited; therefore all of the children are given an opportunity to appear on these informal programs.

Mrs. Grether: Another reason, Miss Clark, why we mothers enjoy the children's programs is the fact that we are not asked to make special costumes for them.

Miss Clark: Children too often depend upon attractive costumes as a substitute for performing their part well. We have concluded too, that the time and money spent for costumes should be used for something of more permanent value.

Mrs. Grether: The question of making money for the P. T. A. is usually a difficult one. This is especially true of schools in isolated districts. Everyone seems to be tired of pie suppers.

Miss Clark: I believe that the P. T. A. should raise money only for the incidental needs of the school. This work should be done by the patrons. The regular classes should not be interrupted. Candy and doughnut sales have supplanted the once time popular pie supper. Many rural schools that are located on good public highways have made
quite a bit of money by establishing booths and putting up signs to advertise their wares. One rural school cleared over a hundred dollars by selling home cooked foods to those who passed their way. Their sign read "Stop, buy, and help our school." Showers and donations, are always acceptable. Supplies for First Aid, drawing materials, and playground equipment should be included in the shower unless these things have already been purchased. A subscription to the daily paper, books for library and magazines are useful donations.

Mrs. Gretter: Miss Clark the real purpose of the P. T. A. seems to be to establish a sympathetic understanding among the patrons so that all may work toward the interest of the children.

Miss Clark: That is its primary function and all the other activities are simply means to help achieve this purpose. When the patrons realize this I believe every school, not only those in the urban communities, but in the rural districts as well will have a P. T. A. It takes the combined efforts of the parents, the teacher, and the community to have a good school.

Moore Thank you, Miss Clark and Mrs. Gretter. Western Teachers College assures the National Congress of Parents and Teachers of its zealous interest and hearty co-operation as this movement embarks upon its forty-first year.

And now another selection by our studio string ensemble, composed of Welton Dye and Murrel Owen, first violin; Laura Salt and Hazel Gates, second violin; William Gleichmann, viola; Robert Chenoweth, violoncello; and John Farriss, double bass; Mr. Chester N. Channon, director. They play the "Theme" from the Piano Sonata, Op. 26, of Beethoven.

Strings "Theme"
Strings "Aria" (Tenologia)
"College Heights", fading for:

You are listening to the fiftieth broadcast in this series originating in the Extension Studio of Western Kentucky Teachers College, in Bowling Green. You have heard today in a program on the eve of the fortieth anniversary of the Parent-Teacher Association movement an address by Mrs. C. H. Jaggers, of Franklin, Kentucky, Third District president; a paper prepared by Mrs. E. W. Whitaker, of Frankfort, Kentucky, state P. T. A. president; and conversations participated in by Mrs. W. M. Willey, chairman of the Bowling Green City Council of the P. T. A.; Miss Ethel Clark, teacher of Western's Rural Demonstration School; and Mrs. A. V. Gretter, a patron of that school. Musical numbers have been played by our studio ensemble.

Our program next Tuesday will come from the faculty and students of Western's Training School, at four o'clock C. S. T.

This is Earl Moore speaking for Western Teachers College, saying goodbye until next Tuesday, and wishing you Life More Life.

Strings up and continue)