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## UA12/2/1 College Heights Herald - Homecoming

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College Heights  
**Herald**  
Section A  
Oct. 25, 1979

# HOME COMING

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# Life love: Poland's tie to Western strong

By JOYCELYN WINNECKE

Hugh Poland was sitting with his best girl and a few buddies in a tiny Tompkinsville restaurant eating nickel hamburgers and drinking nickel Cokes. They were talking about the basketball tournament their high school team had just won.

A man walked up to the table and sat down. Poland immediately recognized him as one of the tournament referees, but he didn't know who the man was.

"How would you like to go to college, son?" the man asked.

"That wouldn't be possible, sir," Poland said to the stranger. "My daddy has five kids, and he only makes \$2.25 a day."

"If I made it possible, would you be interested?" the man persisted.

Poland told him that of course he would be interested.

The next fall, Poland was a freshman at Western, living with the basketball referee who had taken a mysterious interest in the small-town farmer's son.

The man was Coach E.A. Diddle.

That year, 1930, began a life-long love of Western for Poland, now in his 60s and a member of the Board of Regents.

It was in that friendly restaurant, almost a second home to Poland, that Diddle talked Poland into coming to Western and trying out for the football team.

"You ought to be a pretty good football player," Diddle said. "You're big and strong."

Poland said he was ready and willing to try out for the team, but he was very uncertain about his chances. And with

good reason—he had never even seen a football game.

"I played in the first football game I saw," he said. "And the best part was, I even scored a touchdown."

Poland quickly found that college life was for him, and it wasn't long before he developed a strong affection for Western.

As a physical education major, he played baseball, basketball and football—and

*"When I first came to Western, there were 1,250 students and only two cars on the entire campus."*

—Hugh Poland

was successful in all three. He starred for four years as a fullback on the Hilltopper grid team, was alternate captain for the basketball team his senior year and played baseball well enough to later play major league baseball.

His senior year, 1934, Poland was elected by the students as Best All-around Athlete. And his junior year he was voted Most Popular Man on Campus, receiving a prize of \$10 in gold.

The award, which Poland described as "a very distinct honor," was presented to him at a Bowling Green theater. "I'm still very proud of that moment," he said.

Athletics have been an important part of his life since high school. But, Poland said, even when he was playing three sports in college, he had no preference.

"They were all my favorites."

However, baseball had a special impact on his life.

After leaving Western, Poland went to Glasgow,

where he was assistant football coach and head basketball coach at a county high school.

"I was there only a few months when the St. Louis Cardinals wanted to draft me," he said. He took a leave of absence and went to the team's spring training.

"I had a successful season, and enjoyed it a lot," Poland said. "So I never went back to coaching."

Poland spent the next 15 years playing baseball for such major league teams as the New York Giants, Boston Braves, Cincinnati Reds and the Philadelphia Phillies, as well as several minor league clubs.

He was with the Reds in 1948 when it was decided that he "was getting a little age as far as baseball was concerned." That's when Poland accepted an offer from the New York Giants to manage the club in Decatur, Ill.

Poland has been with the Giants organization ever since. He was a manager for five years, including three years with the Nashville Vols. And since 1954, he has been a talent scout for the organization. Poland said he spends about nine months of the year supervising scouting efforts over a nine-state area for the Giants, who are now in San Francisco.

He was forced to move many times during his years as a player and manager, "one of the not-so-good things about baseball."

"I always took my family with me," he said. "And that helped a lot. Baseball has been very good for me and for my family."

"There were lax times, just like in anything you do," he said.

"But as a whole, I've enjoyed every year I've spent in baseball."

Poland believes he can attribute his success to Diddle, who was his basketball and baseball coach, and to Western.

"If it hadn't been for Coach Diddle, I wouldn't have come to Western," Poland said. "I was very close to him; I considered him to be a good friend."

Poland said that Diddle was one of his biggest fans throughout his baseball career. "He was tickled to death when I made the big leagues."

In his 49-year association with Western, Poland has seen many changes take place—"changes which have been very expressive and very promotional to the school."

"When I first came to Western, there were 1,250 students and only two cars on the entire campus."

About all there was to do on weekends when there wasn't a sport going on "to take your girlfriend to the movies."

It wasn't often that Poland had free time, but when he did, he took Mamie Stidham to the movies—and then married her in 1935.

Things to do and places to go aren't the only changes Poland has witnessed over the years. The people have changed, too.

"Young people today have good ideas about what they're doing," he said. "College students know so much more today than we did back in my day."

Poland believes that seeing the many changes take place over the years has helped him as a regent, a position he has held since 1957. In 1973, Poland became the first




Hugh Poland played forward and center for coach E. A. Diddle in the early 1930s.

person to ever be appointed to five consecutive terms on the board.

Poland said he believes "Western is a fine institution. There are very few things I don't like about the school and the way it is run."


But personally, Western holds special meaning for him. "I wouldn't have my wife, I wouldn't have my two sons and I probably wouldn't have ever been involved with professional baseball if it hadn't been for Western."

"I made a world of friends there. I still have many of them. Western has meant everything in the world to me."



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## World War II left Western with few men

By KAREN OWEN

Dec. 7, 1941. Dero Downing and his girlfriend, Harriet, were sitting on the grass in front of Van Meter Auditorium looking at snapshots that Sunday afternoon, when they heard the news that Pearl Harbor had been bombed by the Japanese.

Jo Fish Neil, who was 16 in 1941, was listening to the radio at her home in Hopkinsville when she heard the news. She was frightened and woke her father from his afternoon nap. He was not surprised. He had been expecting the war for years.

Willard Cockrill was watching a movie in Virginia when a news bulletin flashed across the screen, ordering him and other soldiers in the audience to report back to their base immediately. They were shipped overseas the next morning.

Carroll Brooks was sitting in a parked car, listening to the radio and discussing basketball with a high school buddy when he heard that Pearl

Harbor had been attacked. He was unimpressed. He had no doubt America would win the war within 30 days.

That Sunday was the beginning of four years of change for the country, for Western and the students left behind to wait and worry about the men who fought in World War II.

"There were less than 100 boys on campus," Betty Cook Gibson, a cheerleader at Western in 1944 and 1945, said. "Some of us dated high school seniors."

There were no Homecoming celebrations at Western between 1943 and 1946. The traditional Homecoming bonfire made of discarded automobile tires was abandoned during the last Homecoming of the war because rubber was at a premium.

A 1943 Herald editorial read: "Homecoming, football games, and band formations... are now memories," as were dances, club banquets and "long registration lines that formed at 5 a.m." Instead, "marching air crew students,

rationing of shoes to two pairs per year and saving tooth-paste tubes" had become commonplace.

There was no football team—all the players joined the armed forces. There was a basketball team, of sorts, although all of "Mr. Diddle's boys" on scholarships were also drawn into the war, according to Don Ray, 58, of 808 Highland Drive, a Western basketball player from 1941 to 1943, and again after the war.

Gasoline, sugar, meat, tires and cigarettes were all either rationed or difficult to obtain. Women could no longer buy silk stockings; all silk was being used for parachutes.

No new automobiles were built until 1946, according to Mrs. Neal, a student at Western from 1944 to 1946.

"All automobile factories were converted to manufacture vehicles of war," she said. "Everything was geared to supply the men who fought in the war. You name it and



Four ROTC cadets practice bayonet use in 1944, when the campus was oriented toward the war effort.

Women greatly outnumbered men at Western during the war years.

there wasn't much of it."

There were 18 men and 93 women in the 1943 senior class. Western's population dwindled dramatically until after the war. Mrs. Gibson and her twin sister Anna Cook Pickens, of 1231 Cemetery Road, also a cheerleader at Western, estimated that there were only 500 or 600 students on the Hill.

The few men left at Western were "4-Fs (men disqualified from the service for health reasons), pre-meds and pre-dentals," said Dr. Carroll Brooks, a 1948 Western graduate. His college career was interrupted for two years

because of the war.

"It was practically a girls' school there for two years," said Martha Carter of 1943 and 1944. Mrs. Carter was a junior when Homecoming was revived after the war.

The war seemed very real to the students attending Western. "The government encouraged everybody to keep in close contact with the boys," so the women wrote lots of letters to servicemen, helped roll bandages and sold savings bonds, Mrs. Gibson said.

"People were very conscious that an element of our

— Continued to Page 6A —

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# Kings and queens: Administrators among Talisman royalty

By MARGARET SHIRLEY

As the smooth strains from the Tommy Knowles Orchestra softened and the lights on the dance floor dimmed, students, faculty and their dates breathlessly awaited the announcement of the 1954 Talisman King and Queen.

Followed by their royal court, composed of the class representatives, King Royce A. Speck and Queen Liz DeWitt made their way to the elaborately decorated throne in the front of the Student Union Building Ballroom. Behind the throne rose a giant replica of the new yearbook.

The Talisman Ball, considered the "biggest social event on campus," was co-sponsored by the Talisman staff and the senior class each spring.

The dance was so popular that the number of tickets had to be limited and were sold in advance.

Jack Sagabiel, associate academic advisement director, was Talisman King in 1956.

"I was vice president of the senior class, so it was my responsibility to make arrangements for the ball," Sagabiel said. "I was in charge of the orchestra and

the ballroom decorations and whatever else."

"The ball was very formal. Everyone wore his very best. The men would rent a tux and the women wore evening gowns," Sagabiel said.

Because of his position, Sagabiel knew ahead of time that he had been chosen.

"It was funny, because the night before the ball we had a practice. The girl who was queen was on one of my committees. I said I would practice as the king with her as the queen.

"The next night there were lots of oohs and ahs when Jane (Winchester) and I came in as the real king and queen."

Sagabiel said he didn't know what Miss Winchester is doing now.

He said the title was an honor for them. "We were the very best and closest friends. Of course, everyone knew everyone else then."

The event was a well-publicized affair with coverage by The (Louisville) Courier-Journal and the Park City Daily News.

Before the Student Union Building, now Garrett Conference Center, was built, the

ball was in the old gymnasium, which, after renovation, became Helm Library in the 1960s.

The earliest queen on record is Mitzi Bosworth in 1939. The king was added early in the 1940s.

The title was basically the extent of the honor, although the queen was able to keep her crown. Dee Gibson, director of public affairs and Talisman King in 1948, said the queen was usually crowned by the university's president "but the job has kind of fluctuated over the years."

Gibson said the 1948 queen was Betty Topmiller of Bowling Green, who now lives in Florida.

The Talisman staff conducted the election each fall. Clubs made nominations and any person with two nominations was put on a primary ballot. After a campus-wide election, the ballot was cut to the top five candidates. A second election selected the winners. When the king and queen's names were announced, the couple walked down the



Jerry Froedge and Dottie Adkins won in 1965.

-Continued to Page 11A-

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 **Sailin' Shoes**

By TOM BESHEAR

During the 1960s when Western was experiencing major growth, not only was the university expanding, student involvement was also expanding.

This was the period when the national greek system was coming to local groups, when student entertainment was beginning and when student government was being developed.

An ancestor of Western's student government was the president's advisory council, which lasted from 1955 to 1965, said Charles Keown, student affairs dean.

"The advisory council was composed of about 40 students—presidents of student groups, who elected four officers and had social activities, Keown said. The council's main purpose was to meet with then-President Kelly Thompson to discuss student issues, Keown said.

An early mention of student government in the Herald came in the column "Hilltopics" on Feb. 24, 1965. The column featured an interview

# Student government grew as university expanded

with Thompson, in which he said Western was looking for a plan of student government that was particularly suited to Western, not other universities.

The column stated that "a workable organization must be formulated that will bring true representative student government to the campus."

The subject of student government was taken up next by the Congress Debate Club, which began a series of meetings in March 1965.

In May 1965 a committee of 16 members selected from different campus organizations was formed to begin work on a plan for student government.

Ron Beck, university center director, who served as an ASG officer when he was a

Western student, said the group debated many aspects of student government, some of which are still debated on campus.

"There was a question about how much authority students should have and how much should stay with the dean of students (Keown) and his office," Beck said.

One discussion, Beck said, involved the judicial council of the student government and the duties it would have. "A lot of the models of student governments used had courts, and students were responsible for disciplining other students and meted out sanctions."

Beck said the judicial council was given the power to take appeals from students on traffic violations. The role of the judicial council has

changed. Now it makes rulings on student government's internal matters.

Another concern was over which students would be most likely to run for student government offices, Beck said.

While nothing was formally placed in the constitution, there was much discussion over whether greeks would be the students most likely to get elected to offices, Beck said.

The 16-member committee spent nearly a year working on a plan for student government, presenting a constitution to Thompson in March 1966. It was approved by him on April 1, 1966—April Fool's Day.

April 29, 1966, the constitution for the group known as "Associated Students of

Western Kentucky University" was ratified by a vote of 1,812 to 726. Officer elections were held later that semester.

Beck said the main concern of ASG in its early days was money, or the lack of it. ASG then did not receive funds from the university budget, but the group was supplied office space and furniture in the Garrett Conference Center, Beck said.

One of the first duties of ASG was to handle student activities, such as lectures. That was a major part of ASG and remained a function of the group until this fall when activities were taken over by the University Center Board.

"ASG no longer has the cloud of student activities hanging over it," Beck said, adding that having the responsibility of activities often distracted ASG from work on other student issues.

Beck said the similarities between the Associated Students of 1966 and the ASG of 1979 outweigh the differences. The structure of the organization hasn't changed significantly since it began, he said.

## Few men on campus during World War II

—Continued from Page 3A—

community was gone. Every once in a while one of our boys would fall (in battle). It touched our community very much."

"It involved me greatly because I knew that Dero was going to be over there in the middle of it," Harriet Downing said, "and I knew that he was going to be married before he went."

Mrs. Downing, along with all other women living in Western's two dorms, Pottel and Schneider (then called West) had to move out of dorm to make room for Army Air Corps cadets in pre-flight training. All male students already lived off campus.

To relieve the boredom and loneliness, the women often walked downtown to the Capitol Theater or to Pearson's Drug Store, which had a soda fountain. The Hilltopper Cafe, located on Russellville Road, had a juke box and was "where we went for kicks," Mrs. Neal said.

If there were a dance, the girls sometimes had to dance with each other, Mrs. Pickens said. There simply weren't enough men to go around.

"Every male in the country was dying to get into the service," Brooks, 53, said.

"There was a tremendous patriotism. Men felt it was their obligation to go." Brooks attended Western for six weeks in 1943, enlisted in the service and returned in 1945.

World War II veterans adjusted to civilian life much quicker than Vietnam war veterans, said Willard Cockrill, 64, who teaches meteorology at Western. Cockrill joined Western's faculty in 1948.

The veterans of World War II and those waiting in Bowling Green for their return had "a great deal of mutual respect" for each other, he said.

The first Homecoming after the war, in 1946, was a very poignant time for Dero Downing and other veterans who returned to Western. More graduates than usual returned that year. And the war made the men appreciate Western more, Downing said.

"The war was a sobering experience," said Downing, 58, who graduated from Western in 1943.

Mrs. Downing remembers that she and her husband entertained a houseful of guests during that Homecoming celebration.

She also remembered that Western played Murray, and was beaten "56 to nothing—or something like that. Except for the football game, everything was wonderful."

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# Cherryton

## Miniature city on hillside a result of 1920 oil boom

By AMY GALLOWAY

Oil was struck in Bowling Green in 1920 and the southern Kentucky town of 9,600 was no longer the predictable place it had been.

While the town prospered from the money being pumped into the community by prospectors, Western Kentucky State Normal School suffered.

The small school depended on the townspeople to provide housing for its students, but with easy-spending speculators in town, students could not find "wholesome" housing arrangements.

"The institution was literally destroyed as a result of the congestion caused by the oil development in this county," President Henry Hardin Cherry said in a letter to his brother, George. But Cherry was known as a man of means and wouldn't let his school be done in.

A 1920 article in The Courier-Journal Sunday Magazine said, "It is a matter of record that no student has ever left the Western Normal because of the lack of a room."

And soon a small village sprang up along the hillside between Russellville Road and the old stone quarry.

The miniature city was called Cherryton and was hailed by newspapers as the most innovative idea in college housing.

The Courier-Journal described it as "located among the cedars and vines which embellish the natural beauty of Normal Heights."

Cherry took a more realistic view of his invention, however, when he told his brother it was "in the jungle

at the back of Normal Heights."

Dr. George V. Page, then a physics professor, remembers the village arranged along "the cow paths" on the Hill. "That was all just a thicket with rabbits and opossums running wild."

Page, now 89, returned to teach at Western after graduating in 1914. He has seen the construction of every building on the Hill and remembers well the plans for Cherry's "child of necessity."

"There were as many as 40 or 50 little houses," Page said. "Do you know what a box house is?" he asked, laughing. "They just put the planks up and then stripped them with other planks."

"They tell a story that a boy, Edgar Stansbury, made a bet that he could put a football suit on and run through a wall," he said. "And he did—at least that's what they say."

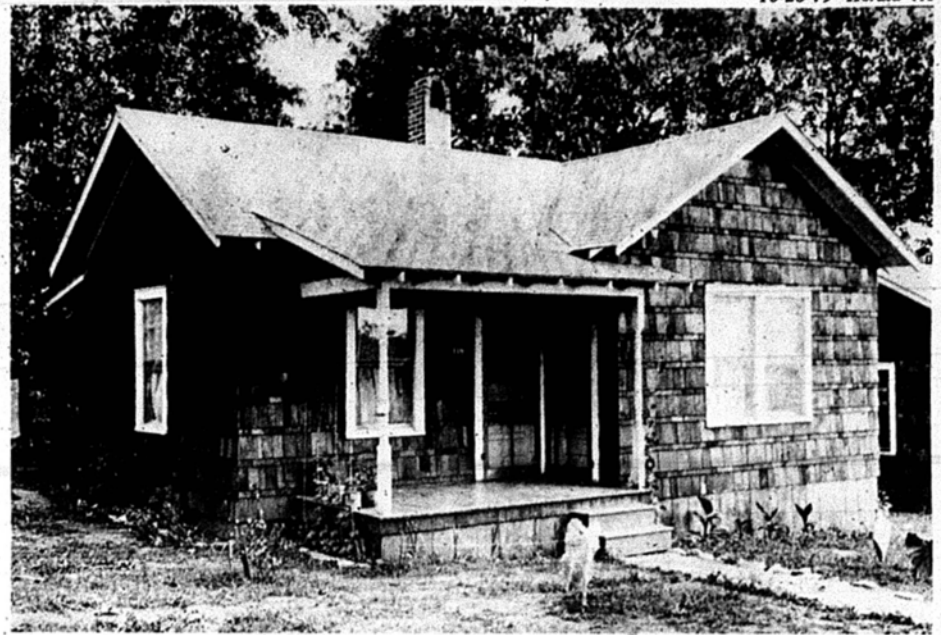
He said the one and sometimes two- and three-room cottages were built by campus workers and students. As he remembers, they "were just built helter skelter" along the hillside.

Promotional material on Cherryton boasted of the electrical lights, central bath, and modern plumbing fixtures the village offered.

Its financial set-up also lent itself to much publicity.

Educational funding was apparently tight in 1920, for Cherry again wrote to his brother: "Handling this institution at this time is like managing a million-dollar business on a hundred-thousand-dollar capital."

The original cost for 65 houses was \$18,000, one newspaper reported. Original



One of the 40 or 50 small houses in Cherryton, a village where students lived in the 1920s. Residents of Cherryton elected a mayor and city council.

occupants bought their houses for \$200, \$300 or \$400, depending on the size of the house, and they were considered the owners for a four-year stay at school. The property then returned to the school to be rented out again. This averaged out to about \$1.50 per person each month. This didn't include fuel, electricity or water bills, but

Tennessean, written by Kelly Thompson, then Western's public relations director, said the election was one of the highlights of the year.

"Handbills and banners singing the praises of the respective candidates play a prominent part in the campaign," Thompson's article said.

1937 candidates adapted

*"There were as many as 40 or 50 little houses. They just put the planks up and then stripped them with other planks."*

—Dr. George V. Page

those expenses rarely totaled more than \$3 a month.

The Park City Daily News called it "the outstanding 'Utopia' of its day."

The village was primarily for men and married couples. But a few of the cottages were filled with young girls. Cherry described the blend as a "community of kindred spirits and common aims. The morale is high and the civic spirit forward looking."

Village residents older than 16 voted each year for a mayor and members of city council. An article in a 1937 Nashville

national candidates' names and slogans to further their cause.

One banner declared: "Two 'chickens' in every garage. Elect Stevens." But his opponent, Waddell Murphey, won the election with his slogan: "Roosevelt wants Murphey."

The mayor represented his community at all meetings dealing with the campus. He and council members were also responsible for running the community smoothly.

"While there is a minimum number of rules and regula-

tions governing the village, the ones that are set up are iron clad," Thompson's article said.

If rules were broken, demerits were given, and in extreme cases \$1 fines were assessed. But only two such fines are recorded. They were levied against two roommates who had broken the plaster in their cottage during a "friendly scuffle."

But Page remembers a lot more going on. He recalls that boys living in the village had a few confrontations with the night watchman assigned to patrol the village.

One time a couple of boys in a car saw the watchman and began chasing him. The watchman became angry and fired a few shots, and the boys ended up with buckshot in them, Page said.

The late '20s were years of expansion for the school.

Now in addition to Potter Hall, West Hall (now Schneider Hall) was built, with others to follow quickly.

Residents of the village seemed a little indignant over the dorm residents' modern

—Continued to Page 15A—

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# The Diddle Tape

Coach was ahead of his time and his school from the start, and he wasn't afraid to say so

By ALAN JUDD and DAVID WHITAKER



E. A. Diddle, Western's basketball coach for 42 years, waves his red towel in front of the arena that bears his name, above. Diddle poses with his 1957 team, below

When good coaching, hustle and school spirit meant more than fancy locker rooms and TV exposure, Ed Diddle was the best.

In the 1930s and '40s, everybody was even. The only advantage one school had over another was if it had a better team. Nobody had ever heard of a totally free education for an athlete, and cheating in recruiting was something that hadn't been invented yet.

While the basketball coach was building a team with a national reputation, Western was evolving from a small college into a thriving university. The two were not necessarily unrelated.

It was Diddle's basketball teams that brought the school attention in the '30s and '40s. During those years here, Diddle was one of the most important men on campus, and he now has a reputation as big as that of any of the school's three presidents he served under.

And it was Diddle who brought here many of the men who shaped the school's course: future presidents Kelly Thompson and Dero Downing; regent Hugh Poland, and Coach Ted Hornback, just to name a few.

Western was much smaller in the years that Diddle was compiling his 759-302 record. During his 42 seasons he knew everything that was happening on campus.

It was for this reason that Robert Cochran, public affairs dean, interviewed in 1969, planning to use the interviews in writing a book about the coach. Diddle died a few months later at the age of 74. Cochran died unexpectedly in 1971, and the tapes disappeared. As far as anyone knew, the tapes included nothing but Diddle's rambles about basketball.

But it turns out that Diddle, who retired from coaching in 1964, knew something about everything at Western during his years here, from presidential policies to the scandals of the day.

Whether Diddle knew what Cochran planned to do with the interviews is uncertain. On the second side of the tape, Cochran told Diddle: "Now, coach, you can say anything in here you want to, because this is just between you and me," Cochran said. "This belongs to me and nobody else. What I'm trying to do here is get from you... your impressions of the way we've grown and the way we've developed."

According to the tapes, if it hadn't been for high water, Diddle might never have come to Western.

"Bob, I was making \$250 a month at Greenville High School a month (coaching basketball)," Diddle said. "And I was supposed to take my high school to the regional tournament at Owensboro."

"The Green River got up, and we couldn't get there."

Since the state tournament was in the infancy stage, there was little organization. So when Diddle couldn't take his team to Owensboro, he did the next best thing.

"We took four mules to a wagon, pulled us over... caught a train for Bowling Green, and I entered the regional tournament here," Diddle said.

"They (officials at Western) liked the way my kids played that they started talking to me... about coming here to coach. And later they hired me."

Diddle said, "The only question was the salary. I was making \$250 a month at Greenville, and \$150 was all they could pay me here."

But, with the vision and foresight that separated Diddle from other coaches, he accepted, saying, "That's a broad field over there, and they've never had anything. And if I can go over there and put it on top, I think I can go places."

"And, Bob, you'll never know how rough it was." Though his team was knocked out of competition early in the tournament, Diddle, with his knack for making the best of a bad situation, took over a strong Adairville High School team. The team's coach had become ill, and Diddle saw the opportunity to further exhibit his coaching talents to the people at Western State Teachers College.

Adairville won the regional tournament that year. Diddle credits his early success at Western to Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry, Western's first president.

When the school was very conservative—dancing and smoking were not allowed on campus—Cherry "was the

only broad-minded fellow here, to my knowledge," Diddle said.

"He knew that he had to have athletics." But Diddle didn't overstate the importance of sports in Western's growth.

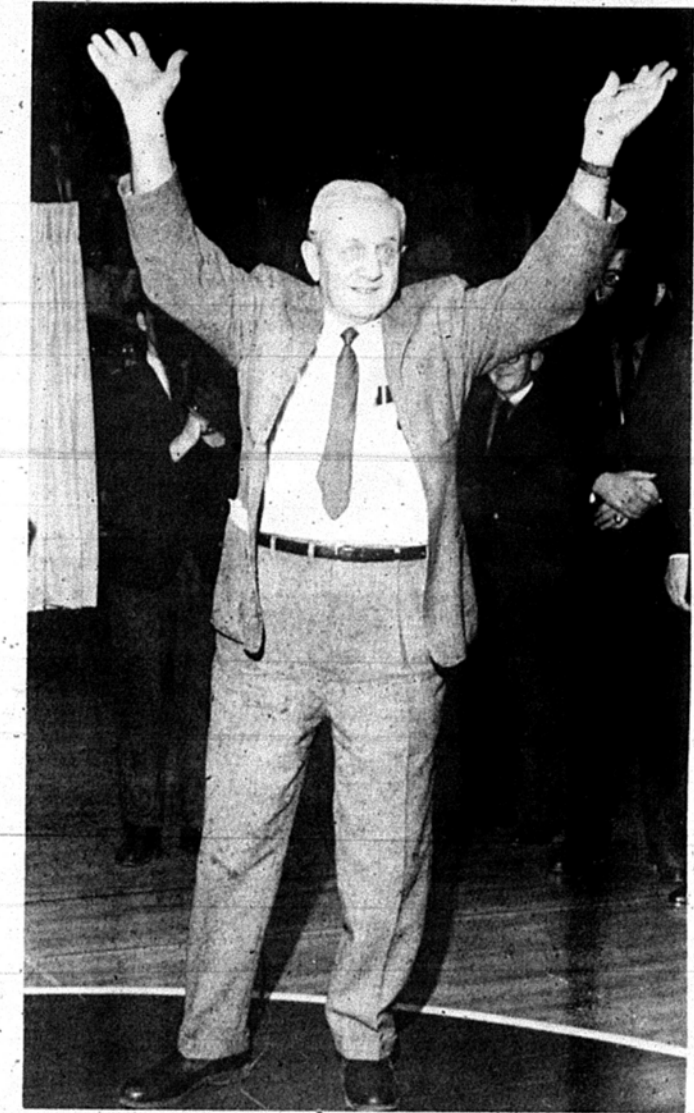
"Basketball alone didn't make Western. It was the cooperation and the working together of all the faculty members that made it a great institution."

Diddle could see both sides, but the faculty was hesitant to endorse athletics here, Diddle said.

"All they wanted to have was class games. And they would turn out for the class games but when we had a varsity game there wouldn't hardly be anybody there. They wanted the boys to buy all their equipment," Diddle said. "They had to work three hours a day in the dorm for their meals; they didn't want them to dance."

Diddle can be credited with refining, if not inventing,

—Continued to Page 14A—



Coach Diddle waves to the crowd during the dedication of Diddle Arena.

## 'Some wonderful tapes'

It sounds a lot like an old-time mystery.

The tapes were made and hidden shortly before the principals died. The tapes, which were rumored to have new and spectacular information, were stored away someplace, collecting dust.

In 1969, former Western basketball coach E.A. Diddle was interviewed by Robert Cochran, then public affairs dean. After Diddle died Jan. 2, 1970, Cochran put the tapes away.

Cochran intended to write a book on Diddle with David B. Whitaker, who had just come to Western as publications director after working for The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times.

But Cochran died of a heart attack on Jan. 25, 1971, and the tapes' whereabouts were unknown—until two weeks ago.

One tape has been in the university archives since Sept. 29, 1976, said Dr. Crawford Crowe, university archivist. He said it was given to the



Photo by The Courier-Journal

Ed Diddle and Robert Cochran.

archives by the public affairs office.

The contents of the tape were discovered when Herald

reporters asked for audio recordings of Diddle. Stored

—Continued to Page 15A—

# Basketball palace now serves as library

By CECELIA MASON

In the days of Coach E.A. Diddle and before Diddle Arena was built, the Hilltopper basketball team had a remarkable record and tradition in the legendary "Big Red Barn."

The building was neither red nor a barn, and it still stands. For 33 years, Helm Library served as Western's Health and Physical Education Building—the home of Diddle's basketball team.

The only reminder of the building's former role is a carpet jump circle on the first

floor in front of the reference desk where the original jump circle was.

The "Big Red Barn" was built in 1931 when the first gymnasium—which was a real barn—became too small for the growing Kentucky State Normal School. The new physical education facility, built with white stone from Bowling Green, was billed in some newspapers as one of the largest and finest college gyms in the South. It seated 4,500 people and cost \$225,000 to build. The original gym had only a 250-seat capacity.

In the first game played in the new gym, the Hilltoppers beat Georgetown College, 41-24. Thirty-three years later, in the final game played there, Western lost to East Tennessee, 80-79. In the 33 seasons in the building, Diddle's teams lost only 38 of 336 games. And in the six years between Feb. 5, 1949, and Jan. 10, 1955, Western won 67 consecutive home games. This streak was broken by Xavier (Ohio) University with an 82-80 win over the Toppers.

In the years that the building was a gym, Western's

basketball teams won 10 Ohio Valley Conference championships, 13 Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships and eight Southern Intercollegiate Championships.

On Jan. 6, 1960, more than 5,000 people assembled in the "Big Red Barn" to celebrate Diddle's 700th win, which took place a week earlier. Exactly two years later, 4,000 people attended Diddle's 1,000th game. As he was presented with 1,000 silver dollars, Diddle said, "I would do the same thing over again at the same place, with the same

friends... I will never quit...." Western beat New Mexico State that night, 71-67.

Just as the "Big Red Barn" was built because Kentucky State Normal School outgrew its original gym, the day came when Western Kentucky State College needed a larger, more modern physical education facility.

On Nov. 17, 1963, Diddle sunk the first goal signifying the opening of practice in the new \$2.5 million Diddle Arena. It was billed by many newspapers as one of the largest and finest college gymnasiums in the nation.

## Snell Hall gift to school

By LISA BEATY

Snell Hall is now just an obscure little building tucked behind the central wing of Thompson Complex.

But the hall is a symbol of the benevolence of one of Western's most generous benefactors, C. Perry Snell.

Snell, an Ogden College graduate, was one of the wealthiest men ever to live in Bowling Green. In 1924, Snell gave Ogden College \$30,000 to build Snell Hall.

He also left a valuable art collection to Western in 1929.

The hall contains several classrooms and an auditorium that seats 99 people. The agriculture department and the biology department were once housed in the building. The biology department still uses the hall as an annex.

The Italian Gardens behind Snell Hall was also a gift from Snell. The garden was planned by Henry Wright of New York, who was Western's landscape architect until his death in 1937.

Time has caught up with Snell Hall. The building is pervaded with a musty, yellowed smell, and the scuffed wooden floors creak underfoot.


The gardens, too, have suffered from the years' onslaught. The Italian vase is gone from the middle of the garden. Fingers, ends of noses and other details are missing from the statues. Vandalism, harsh winters and exhaust fumes from Chestnut Street traffic have taken their toll.

But Snell Hall and the Italian Gardens linger on as the legacy of an almost forgotten benefactor.

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## Protests mostly quiet

# Campus divided over Vietnam issues

"Let me say that the servicemen in Vietnam hate you as a protester. Because they're over there just trying to save their own skin and you don't even try to help them do that."

"I hope you have a few of your close friends blown to bits, or win the Medal of Honor and not even enjoy it. . . The guys there sure wish they could be in your shoes and you in theirs because you're not worth fighting for."

—excerpt from a letter to the Herald editor from a Vietnam veteran, Oct. 14, 1969.

By TIM FISH

The war had been going strong for most of the decade, and by 1969, many people grew disillusioned with a war that didn't seem to have an end.

In many cities around the country, demonstrations were loud and sometimes violent. But Western had only a handful of rallies—and all were peaceful.

During a symbolic day-long moratorium against the war, about 1,200 students, faculty and Bowling Green residents gathered in the old football stadium on the Hill.

"All we are saying is give peace a chance," a speaker said to the fluctuating crowd.

The moratorium was endorsed by Associated Students. It was part of a national day for peace on Oct. 15, 1969, which was aimed at alerting then-president Richard Nixon to their views.

After the rally, students prayed at the Newman Center for those killed in the war. During the following days, several students wore black armbands to continue the moratorium effort.

"It was not that they were anti-establishment. . . they were definitely against the war in Vietnam," Father William Allard of the Newman Center recently said about the rally. Allard was one of two area ministers who spoke at the rally.

"We didn't have a lot of the campus involved in it, but there were a lot of people opposed to it."

After four students were killed on May 4, 1970, by National Guardsmen at Kent State in Ohio while demonstrating against the war, which was by then expanding into Cambodia, students here officially joined the national outcry.

About 250 persons gathered behind Cherry Hall on May 6 to voice their opposition to the four students' deaths and to call for an end to the war in Southeast Asia.

"There's no reason to let

maniacs get out with guns and legally kill people," said Bill Nelson, an organizer of the rally. "They weren't freaks. They had short hair; they were honor students; one was an ROTC cadet."

Demonstrators wore "Strike Western" T-shirts and called for a boycott of classes.

Later that night, a large crowd gathered in the old stadium for a candlelight vigil for the families of the students killed at Kent State.

other demonstrators "radical and ridiculous."

During all of Western's rallies a primary theme surfaced — demonstrations should be peaceful.

A Herald editorial on May 8, 1970, said that placing blame for the Kent State incident was impossible.

"But who is really responsible? The National Guard for having been on campus with loaded guns? . . . Some will say the Kent State students were

And when the war was over, students read how many of the returning soldiers were welcomed home, and the prisoners of war were slowly released.

The demonstrating students finally got what they wanted — America was out of Vietnam. And for those students who were for "victory in Vietnam," it may not have been so victorious.

An excerpt from an editorial by Herald editor Bruce Tucker, published several months before Kent State, says it all:

Dear Mom and Dad, I'll be coming home soon. . .

(But the months went by. Troop withdrawals and the suspension of the draft were announced. But the draft suspension was just a fast shuffling of papers. The troop withdrawals were not significant but mere gimmicks to appease public opinion. But at last the boy came home.)

Dear Madam. We regret to inform you that your son was reported killed in action.

(And a soldier is buried, a mother withers and one wonders what happy forces came together to kill this boy.)

## Talisman Ball big event

—Continued from Page 4A—

covered walkway to the throne.

Besides the coronation and introduction of the court, the senior class also presented its gift to the school at the ball.

The last Talisman king and queen pictured in the yearbook were William "Winky" Menser and Susan Cowherd in 1967.

"The Talisman staff made the ultimate decision to end the election," Sagabiel, then dean of men, said. "The staff wanted to have a Miss Western contest instead, so there would be a candidate in the Miss Kentucky pageant."

"I don't really know why we couldn't have both," he said. "The ball was a big thing in its day, but I suppose now it wouldn't fit in with the times."



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# School has answered to 6 names in its past

By GREG BILBREY

"Western Kentucky University" may have a ring of permanence to it, but it is only one of six names the school has had.

In 1875, Henry Hardin Cherry brought the Southern Normal School to Bowling Green. Originally founded that year as the Glasgow Normal Institute, it was a private institution for secondary and higher education.

According to a 1938 history of the Western Kentucky State Teachers College, the Kentucky General Assembly enacted legislation in 1906 supporting two state normal schools—Eastern Kentucky State Normal School at Richmond (now Eastern Kentucky University) and Western Kentucky State Normal School at Bowling Green. Cherry's Southern Normal School was thus converted into a state institution, and he became its first president.

In 1909, the Potter College for Young Ladies, founded in 1887, became part of the state

normal school. And, on March 20, 1922, Western became a four-year institution under the new name "Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College."

In 1928, Western took Ogden College under its wing. The college became Western's science department.

In 1930, the legislature dropped the words "normal school" from all state teachers colleges. There was no longer a need for a normal, or secondary education department, since almost all students seeking to enter Western had at least graduated from high school, according to the history.

The word "teachers" was dropped from the name by the legislature in 1948.

In 1963, Western Kentucky State College absorbed the Bowling Green College of Commerce.

Finally, in 1966, after most current colleges and departments were formed, Western acquired university status and became Western Kentucky University.

# Hilltop bridge has seen violence in two centuries

By LINDA JONES

It is a peaceful site, the cedar-log bridge sitting atop the hill. But the scene was not so peaceful more than a century ago.

Every day Western students and staff travel where soldiers wearing blue and gray once marched.

The bridge between Cherry Hall and Gordon Wilson Hall dates back to the Civil War. It once spanned the trench of Fort Albert Sidney Johnston, named after a confederate general.

In September 1861, Confederate soldiers moved into Bowling Green under the command of Johnston, who was in charge of the western armies of the South.

The Confederates began building the fort but abandoned it in February 1862. Union soldiers soon replaced them, completed the fort and occupied it until the war ended.

Part of the fort was torn down to build Gordon Wilson Hall, but the deep-walled concrete trench and rustic bridge remain.

On Oct. 1, 1967, the bridge was vandalized, along with several campus buildings. The remains of the bridge were removed.

The bridge was rebuilt later that month by the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the physical plant department.

Today the bridge at the crest of the Hill serves as a cove for studying.

# Book celebrates 'homecoming'

If books can have Homecomings, then "Tap Roots" was celebrated earlier this month.

The book was mailed to Helm Library with this anonymous note attached:

"I am returning a book, 'Tap Roots,' that belongs to Western. When I left campus 30 years ago, and have not returned since, the book was

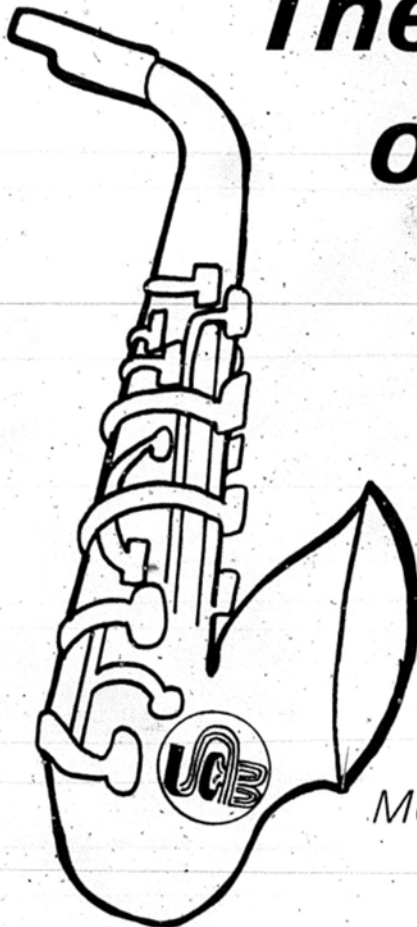
mistakenly packed with my books. I did not have it checked out, nor do I know who did.

"However, I figure if I had been the one to check it out, and it was overdue 30 years (which is 10,950 days) at five cents per day, I would owe \$547.50 in fines."



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# Severe drought led to building

By CINDI BAILEY

The summer of 1918 is best remembered in Bowling Green for a severe drought. That drought, along with a bagworm epidemic and the ingenuity of the 1920 senior class, led to the creation of the Senior House—now the Faculty House.

At that time, the Hill was covered with cedar trees and the drought and bagworm disease killed many of them.

At that same time, the senior class of Western Kentucky State Normal School was looking for a senior club house.

The building, one of the more versatile in Western's history, was built by several students—mostly seniors—during summer vacation, using the wood of the dead cedars.

The cedars were hewn with old-fashioned broad axes, and Professor George V. Page, one of three faculty members who helped the students, won

the honor of "champion log hewer," according to the university archives.

Although area construction firms said it would be impossible to build the house from the rough cedar, a one-story log house with gables at each end was built. The main hall was one large paneled room with a loft above. An antique double-barrel shotgun, its origin a mystery, was donated to the university sometime between 1920 and 1923 to be hung over the fireplace. A civil war rifle, donated in 1931, now hangs in the shotgun's place.

In 1923, the Senior House renamed the Cedar House was used as the library.

The house was restored to its original use as a place for social gatherings in 1928, as the first student center. From 5 to 10 p.m. students gathered there, and, in warmer months, would sit outside on the steps to chat and relax. During the winter, students danced



Photo by Robin Reedy

Today's Faculty House was for many years a place for students to relax. It was also used as a library and a rehearsal hall before its current use.

inside the rustic house, where the smell of cedar still lingered.

With the expansion of the school from a two-year school to a four-year college, a larger building was needed for the increased number of students and with the opening of the

Paul L. Garrett Student Center in 1952, the Cedar House wasn't the center of social gatherings it once was.

The College High Orchestra used the building for rehearsals in 1954 until 1955, when it was returned to the students complete with a new

juke box, according to Herald article that year.

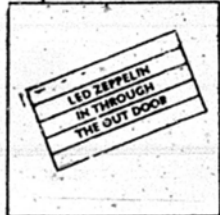
During the summer of 1960, the building was renovated to be used as a faculty house because, according to president Kelly Thompson, teachers needed to have a place of their own.

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# Diddle was candid in last known interview

—Continued from Page 8A—

now-common plays such as the one-hand jump shot and the fast break.

Here are excerpts from the tape that reinforce Diddle's image as a pioneer of college basketball.

COCHRAN: In all these years, coach, what are the major changes?

DIDDLE: "The first major change in basketball was when they eliminated the center jump (after every basket). That is the big change that made basketball what fans want to see. Lightning basketball. I would

"I called it (fast break) headin' for the promised land."

—E. A. Diddle

say that's the majorest, the big change that ever happened to basketball."

COCHRAN: "You've seen the one-hand jump shot come in."

DIDDLE: "Well, Ted Hornback (later an assistant coach here under Diddle) used the first one-handed jump shot of anybody I had, and that was in the latter '20s. And what a ball player he was. And I wouldn't want to forget to say how grateful and how wonderful he was the 29 years he worked with me... and he was the first boy to use the one-handed jump shot in the South.

"They all thought he was crazy. But he could hit it, and I wouldn't change him.

"And even in '42, when we went up there to play in that National Invitational (Tournament), we were using the swing shot, the hook shot, and people thought we was nuts in New York. But you noticed that they came to it up there and started using the one-handed shot after we played there."

COCHRAN: "Well, where did you get the idea of the fast break?"

DIDDLE: "My theory was

that you didn't need any set play if you could get a half step ahead. Get it and go. I called it 'headin' for the promised land' back in my early days."

(Diddle said his teams "free lanced" its plays during most of his career. However, some of his teams played control ball.)

"And we kept the ball and didn't shoot it until we had to. The crowd likes to see 'em go for the bucket."

COCHRAN: "Do you remember the first game in the old stadium?"

DIDDLE: "Well, it was 1931... No, you're right, it was 1927. There wasn't any grass on it. I had a kid from Glasgow named Soup Oliver who played quarterback for me.

"Back in the ol' days they used to call our boys and girls up here soup because they (students at Ogden College) claimed the only thing they ever had was soup and beans.

"Well... we were playing, and Oliver got loose and ran 98 yards for a touchdown.

"Everybody got up and hollered, 'Run Soup, Run Soup, Run Soup!' And Doc Cherry was down there on my bench, and he said, 'Why, they can't do that to us. They can't call us that.'

"And I said 'Doc, they're not making fun,... I said, 'That boy happens to be named Soup. They're encouraging him; they're not making fun.'"

COCHRAN: "I want you to tell me about those fights you had over there (at Ogden College, which was then separate from Western)."

DIDDLE: "When I came here, Ogden ruled the roost, and they didn't want our students, and faculty in this town didn't want this school to be here—they were bitter against it.

"And so one day I went down State Street where the Park City Hotel is, and there were seven or eight boys sitting on the steps. They made a cute remark at me, and I just walked up in the

middle of them."

"I'd just come out from under Uncle Charlie Moran (Diddle's football coach at Centre College), and he taught you to fight—if you couldn't fight, you couldn't be on the ballclub.

I said, 'The so-and-so who said that, step up. I'll whip one of you at a time as long as I last, and I think I can whip every one of you. Now I'm gonna tell you, if you ever bother one of my students coming down this street or holler at them again, I'm bringing my football team over here, and I'm gonna clean you out.'"

"I said, 'We're gonna beat you in basketball, and we're gonna beat you in football.'"

"We did.

"And later we took 'em over."

COCHRAN: "Who was Doc Fred Ritter?"

DIDDLE: "He was a local doctor, my team doctor. He died, and then I came along and Dr. (W.R.) McCormack (later a member of the Board of Regents) had been a student here and been on the track team. He had just come back from the service and started out a practice, and I got him to be a team doctor.

"He has been just like a father.

"He and Dr. Fred Ritter and Kelly (Thompson, Western's third president) had more to do with me being successful than any three men I've ever had any dealings with.

"One of the most thrilling games that I had was in the '50s when I got up from the heart attack (in 1952) and went to Dayton, and Dr. McCormack came along with

me to keep me quiet.

"We had come from behind and tied it up... and then we had the second overtime, and in the third overtime it looked impossible, and we come in and win it.

"The doctor went along to keep me quiet... and he got so excited that these nitroglycerin pills I had in my pocket, I handed them over to him.

"I said, 'Here, Doc, you take the pills. I think you need 'em worse than I do.'"

Cochran asked Diddle about several of his better teams.

COCHRAN: "Who took you to New York the first time when you went to the NIT?"

DIDDLE: "Well, Dero Downing, Buck Sydnor, Alex Downing, Tip Downing, Earl Shelton and the boy from Lexington. (He) owns a motel there at Lexington—Billy Day. And they had a boy who's a doctor over at Owensboro? Jim Callis."

COCHRAN: "And what was the boy's name who made the all-tournament team and went in as a substitute?"

DIDDLE: "Oh, that was the boy from Monticello. He shot 11 times and made 11 buckets."

(Diddle recalled having to go through a flood to get to the

player's home when he was recruiting him.)

"He was up on the hill picking huckleberries or something when we got there. Blevins—Ray Blevins. That's the boy's name. He went in that game and done swell."

The last thing Cochran and Diddle talked about was transportation during Diddle's early days.

DIDDLE: "Back in those days, the only transportation you had was..."

COCHRAN: "Sit still. You don't have to sit up."

DIDDLE: "... was on trains, if you could get enough money. But then came along the automobile and I'd get people here in town to take us."

COCHRAN: "Now, this was the football team?"

DIDDLE: "Football and basketball. And then later I bought an old Chevrolet bus that would hold about 18 or 20 boys... And we called this bus 'Leapin' Lana.' And then the school come along and bought a 39-passenger bus. (The phone rings in the background.) It run 35 miles an hour, and you thought you was flying."

The phone continued to ring, and the tape recorder was turned off. The interview, and the last known recording of Ed Diddle, was over.

## City named after hobby

Bowling Green has come a long way since the 1700s, when it was just a small village with a grassy spot where people gathered to bowl.

The village's name—then

only one word, "Bowling-green"—came, says Chamber of Commerce literature, from its citizen's hobby of rolling wooden balls on a green near a large grove of trees.



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# Cochran planned book based on tapes

—Continued from Page 9A—

among interviews broadcast in the 1950s and 1960s, was a tape labeled simply, "C. Interview. E.A. Diddle."

The tape includes Diddle's recollections about his early life in Gradyville, Ky., his college career at Centre in Danville, the teams he coached at Western and several stories about Western in the 1920s through the 1940s.

Diddle talks about the three Western presidents he worked for — Henry Hardin Cherry, Paul Garrett and Kelly Thompson.

He also mentions several scandals at Western, including when Cherry was arrested in Louisville (although he doesn't say for what) and



Robert Cochran

when a Western bookkeeper was indicted on a charge of stealing money from the school.

Diddle also tells about his involvement in an apparent vote fraud case in the 1935

governor's election. He supported A.B. "Happy" Chandler who defeated Tom Ray. Ray had promised Garrett that he would make Western a university, according to Diddle.

The tape ends with Diddle talking about the means of transportation his early teams used. The telephone rings and the recorder was turned off.

Whitaker said that Cochran was the best person to have interviewed Diddle, since Cochran had been at Western since 1939 and knew Diddle as well as anyone.

Cochran enrolled here as a student in 1939 and worked for Thompson in the public relations office while he was a student. He graduated in 1947 after spending almost five years in the U.S. Army.

Cochran became Western's field representative in 1948 and was named public relations director in 1955, serving until he was appointed public affairs dean in 1966.

there was one tape recorded on two sides.

The day after Cochran died, Dean Eagle, then the sports editor of The Courier-Journal, wrote in his column that

"One of these days I'm going to get around to writing a book about Mr. Diddle. I have some wonderful tapes."

—Robert Cochran

He died several days after suffering a heart attack at a Kentucky Press Association convention in Louisville.

His death was a surprise, and no one had been told where the tape or tapes were. It still is not known how many tapes were made; Whitaker said Cochran told him that there were two but that Cochran may have meant

Cochran had spent time gathering information about Diddle.

Eagle quoted Cochran, as once saying, "One of these days I'm going to get around to writing a book about Mr. Diddle. I have some wonderful tapes."

And after almost nine years, it turns out that he certainly did.

# Village result of oil boom

—Continued from Page 7A—

comforts. They were quick to defend their little village.

"Perhaps to you who live on the other side of the Hill, it (the village) seems to be a back-woods place just outside of civilization," Miss Elsie Hicks, a resident, wrote.

"Although we do have disadvantages that are not felt by people who live in

steam-heated houses having hot running water at all hours, we experience a home atmosphere," she said.

By the beginning of World War II, the village had dwindled to 13 houses, which housed athletes.

According to Thompson's article, Cherryton's location had "contributed to its doom, as it was directly in the path of

the rapidly growing College Heights."

As the war ended, veterans returned, and housing was once again in demand. But the village had disappeared — only to be replaced by a new one, farther down the hill and composed of mobile homes and barracks.

But that's another story.


# Publications named in '20s

If Dr. G. C. Gamble and Dr. M.A. Leiper hadn't insisted on a more dignified name for Western's newspaper, students might still be reading the Elevator rather than the College Heights Herald.

Frances Richards, the first editor of the Herald and Western's first journalism teacher; Gamble, who was the dean of the college; and Leiper, English department head, suggested the present name "because they felt it was an appropriate name for a newspaper from College Heights," Miss Richards said. College Heights is the name of the hill Western is on.


Nettye Layman Matthews used a romantic touch to name the yearbook the Talisman.

In the 1973 50th anniversary edition of the Talisman, Mrs. Matthews, a 1924 graduate, was quoted as saying that the name "Talisman" suggested "...an oriental charm by which the happy memories of the past might be held and returned to us at our wills."



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**ON 31-W BY-PASS**





Her jacket, blouse and skirt by Villager.  
His jacket by PDC International, shirt by Arrow and cords by Lee.

*Ben Snyder's*