


1976

UA1D Kenneth Clarke

WKU Human Resources

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MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT



TO: Dr. Kenneth Clarke

DATE: January 4, 1968

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please complete necessary action | <input type="checkbox"/> Please telephone President's Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please reply over your signature | <input type="checkbox"/> Please note and return |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please prepare reply for President's signature | <input type="checkbox"/> Please read and advise me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please furnish information for President's reply | <input type="checkbox"/> For your information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please complete routing | <input type="checkbox"/> For your files |
-

Reading "Backyard Birds and Other Verse," which you sent to Sarah, was a genuine delight.

Happy new year to you and Mary.

Kelly Thompson

September 22, 1976

Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke
Route 5, Box 71
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Dear Dr. Clarke:

This letter is written to officially acknowledge and to accept the notice of your wish to retire, effective June 30, 1977.


Please know of our deep appreciation for the contribution you have made to Western Kentucky University during your years of service on the "Hill," and we want you to know also that you have a standing invitation to return to the campus for a visit at any time. We hope your retirement will be a time of enjoyment and happiness for you.

It will be appreciated if you will work closely with Dean Mounce and Dr. Montell on all matters relating to your retirement. If you find that I or others here can be of service to you in any way, do not hesitate to call upon us.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Mr. James Tomes, requesting that he work closely with you on matters pertaining to salary working within the established guidelines of the University and the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System.

With personal best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Dero G. Downing
President

DGD:mcb

cc: Dr. James L. Davis
Dr. Robert H. Mounce
Dr. W. Lynwood Montell
Mr. James B. Tomes ✓



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

July 20, 1976

Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies

Dr. James L. Davis
Associate Dean of Faculties
Western Kentucky University

Dear Dr. Davis:

I have decided to retire from teaching at the age of sixty. This is my formal notice that I intend my retirement to become effective June 30, 1977.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth W. Clarke

Kenneth W. Clarke

Copies to:
Dean Mounce
Dr. Montell

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL SERVICES

NOTICE OF PERSONNEL ACTION

Date Prepared September 21, 1976

Name Kenneth W. Clarke Social Security No. _____ Date of Birth _____

Department Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies Faculty Rank, Occupational Title or Position _____

Address Route 5, Box 71, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 Position Number _____ Class Grade _____

New Position _____ Replacement _____ Account to be Charged _____ Effective Date of Action June 30, 1977

EMPLOYEE STATUS	TYPE OF ACTION	TYPE PAYMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent	<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment	<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Months Contract Paid Over 12 Months Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/> Resignation	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly (12 Months)
<input type="checkbox"/> Probationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Salary Adjustment	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly (11 Months)
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Time	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Stipend	<input type="checkbox"/> Hourly
<input type="checkbox"/> Part Time	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorarium
	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave of Absence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain) Retirement	
Present Salary <u>24,000</u>	New Salary _____	

Remarks:

Recommended:

<p>_____ Title Date</p> <p><u>James L. Davis</u> <u>9-21-76</u> Vice President Date</p>	<p>_____ Title Date</p> <p><u>Lera G. Downing</u> <u>9-22-76</u> President Date</p>
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FOR PERSONNEL USE

PERS g INS CLK SDP PR CLK BC 9-22-76

MONTH	GROSS	FICA	KY.RET.	FED.	STATE	CITY	WN	CW	BC	TR	BONDS	NET



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

April 28, 1976

Office of the President

Dear Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke:

The salary structure for 1976-77 was approved by the Board of Regents at the meeting on April 24, 1976.

It is a pleasure for me to advise you that your annual salary has been increased from \$ 21,528 to \$ 24,048, effective August 16, 1976. The Operating Budget adopted by the Board of Regents provided for an increase of \$100 per summer stipend; and effective with the summer of 1977, the following schedule will be in effect:

Instructor	\$1,550	Associate Professor	\$2,150
Assistant Professor	\$1,850	Professor	\$2,450

The policies and procedures outlined in the Faculty-Staff Handbook detail the conditions of your continued employment with respect to such matters as teaching loads, office hours, student advisement, and other professional obligations. You will also be expected to participate as needed in the program of instruction on campus in the late afternoons and evenings and in the extended campus offerings.

I am grateful to you for the contribution you have made to the programs of the University and look forward to working with the members of the faculty and staff during the coming year. I pledge to you my personal support in our continued efforts to provide an atmosphere in which each individual on the faculty can realize a greater sense of personal and professional satisfaction.

Best wishes are extended to you for every success in the significant endeavors in which you are engaged, and you are invited to call upon me if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dero G. Downing".

Dero G. Downing
President

DGD:ewe

Enclosure



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

April 29, 1975

Office of the President

Dear Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke:

At a meeting of the Board of Regents on April 26, 1975, approval was given to the salary structure for 1975-76.

I am pleased to inform you that your annual salary has been increased from \$ 20,532 to \$ 21,528, effective August 16, 1975. The summer school stipends will continue as established previously by the Board of Regents.

The policies and procedures in the Faculty-Staff Handbook outline the conditions of your continued employment with respect to such matters as teaching loads, office hours, student advisement, and other professional obligations. In addition, you will be expected to participate as needed in the extended campus offerings and classes scheduled in the late afternoons and evenings.

I would like to express my personal appreciation and the appreciation of the University for all that you have done to make it possible for Western to fulfill its role in higher education. I pledge to you my personal support and the support of the President's Office in our continued efforts to provide an atmosphere in which each individual can realize greater professional achievements and in which the University will reach new levels of accomplishment.

Best wishes are extended to you for continued success in the important work which you are doing. I invite you to call upon me if I can be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dero G. Downing".

Dero G. Downing
President.

DGD:eaw

Enclosure



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

November 18, 1974

Department of English

*Transfer names
budget accounts
from English to
Intercultural Studies
B.G.*

Jim Jones

To: Mr. Harry K. Largen, Vice President
for Business Affairs
Business Office
Wetherby Administration Building 41

Subject: Transfer of Names from the Department of English
Payroll to the Payroll of the Center for Inter-
cultural and Folk Studies

The Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies is now considered as having department status in Potter College. Consequently, three faculty members who were officially members of the Department of English are now considered as officially resident in the Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies. Please transfer the faculty members listed below to the payroll of the Center for Intercultural Studies and take the necessary steps to insure that their checks are sent to that office on subsequent paydays.

- Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke ✓
- Dr. Mary W. Clarke ✓
- Ms. Camilla A. Collins ✓

James Heldman
James Heldman, Head
Department of English

JH/pn

cc: Dr. Robert Mounce
Dr. Lynwood Montell

May 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. Raymond L. Cravens

This is to serve as authorization to proceed with the implementation of the plan outlined in your memorandum of May 29 for the utilization of personnel to teach in the area of Folk Studies.

A copy of this memorandum is being sent to Mr. Largen to serve as authorization to make the necessary adjustments and to others for their information and future reference.

DGD
Dero G. Downing
President

DGD:mch

cc: Mr. Harry Largen
Mr. James Tomes
Dr. Paul B. Cook



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

Office of the Vice-President
of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties

May 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO - President Dero G. Downing

SUBJECT - Plan for Offering of Folk Studies Program - Fall 1974

As a follow-up on our discussion of last week, permit me to outline the plan which has been worked out by Dr. Montell for the offering of the necessary courses in folk studies and the supervision of master's theses in that area for the coming year. The anticipated cost of this plan will be one \$2,000 graduate assistantship for which your approval is requested, and the possible use of part-time faculty for freshman English should the need arise during registration. The \$2,000 assistantship should be allocated to the Kentucky Museum. The graduate assistant assigned there will enable the release of Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Mac Leish to teach in folk studies on a one-course basis.

The plan follows:

1. Drs. Kenneth and Mary Clarke are to be released from one class each of freshman English.
2. Ms. Camilla Collins will teach full-time in folk studies during the coming school year.
3. Mr. J. E. Jones will be assigned to teach one course in Afro-American History for the history department each semester of next year as needed.
4. Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Mac Leish will teach one class in museum administration for the folk studies graduate program.
5. Mrs. Jean Thomason and Mr. Charles Guthrie will be phased out completely from folk studies teaching.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Raymond L. Cravens".

Raymond L. Cravens
Vice-President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of the Faculties

RLC:lh



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

April 30, 1974

Office of the President

Dear Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke:

At a meeting of the Board of Regents on April 27, 1974, approval was given to the salary structure for 1974-75.

I am pleased to inform you that your annual salary has been increased from \$19,662 to \$20,532, effective August 16, 1974. The summer school stipends will continue as established by the Board on February 24, 1973:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Professor	\$2350
Associate Professor	2050
Assistant Professor	1750
Instructor	1450

The policies and procedures in the Faculty-Staff Handbook outline the conditions of your continued employment with respect to such matters as teaching loads, office hours, student advisement, and other professional obligations. In addition, you will be expected to participate as needed in the extended campus offerings and classes scheduled in the late afternoons and evenings.

I would like to express my personal appreciation and the appreciation of the University for all that you have done to make it possible for Western to fulfill its role in higher education. I pledge to you my personal support and the support of the President's Office in our continued efforts to provide an atmosphere in which each individual can realize greater professional achievements and in which the University will reach new levels of accomplishment.

Best wishes are extended to you for continued success in the important work which you are doing. I invite you to call upon me if I can be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dero G. Downing".

Dero G. Downing
President

DGD:eaw

Enclosure



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

April 17, 1973

Office of the President

Dear Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke:

At a meeting of the Board of Regents on February 24, 1973, authorization was given to proceed with the preparation of the 1973-74 operating budget. The Regents endorsed the recommendation for giving continued priority to strengthening the salary schedule. As a result, the matter of salary increments has been given prime consideration in the development of the operating budget.

I am happy to inform you that your regular salary has been increased from \$ 18,726 to \$ 19,662, effective August 16, 1973.

On February 24, 1973, the Board authorized the establishment of stipends by rank for a full teaching load in the Summer School. Effective with the 1974 Summer School, the following schedule will be in effect for all faculty:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Professor	\$2350
Associate Professor	2050
Assistant Professor	1750
Instructor	1450

The degree of success which Western may achieve in the fulfillment of its stated purposes and objectives is dependent on the coordinated efforts of each of us. Let me remind you that the policies and procedures in the Faculty-Staff Handbook outline the conditions of your continued employment with respect to such matters as teaching loads, office hours, student advisement, and other professional obligations; in addition, you will be expected to participate in the extended campus offerings and classes scheduled in the late afternoons and evenings.

I would like to express my personal appreciation and the appreciation of the University for all that you have done to make it possible for Western to fulfill its role in higher education. I pledge to you my personal support and the support of the President's Office in our continued efforts to provide an atmosphere in which each individual can realize greater professional achievements and in which the University will reach new levels of accomplishment.

Best wishes are extended to you for continued success in the important work which you are doing, and I invite you to call upon me if I can be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Dero G. Downing
Dero G. Downing
President

ew
Enclosure



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

April 12, 1972

Office of the President

Dear Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke:

On January 26, 1972, the Board of Regents authorized the preparation of the operating budget for 1972-73. The Board gave approval to the recommendation that continued priority be given to strengthening the salary structure. Consequently, the area of salary increments has been given prime consideration in the development of the operating budget.

I am pleased to notify you that your regular salary has been increased from \$ 17,940 to \$ 18,726, effective August 16, 1972.

The stipend paid for teaching during the summer session is currently being reviewed and analyzed. This is to advise you that, pending the completion of this study, individual summer stipends for 1973 will not exceed the amount an individual will be eligible to receive in the summer of 1972.

The degree of success which Western may achieve in the fulfillment of its stated purposes and objectives is dependent on the coordinated efforts of each of us. It is the position of the University that faculty members cannot fulfill their responsibilities in a professional manner if they undertake other gainful activities which interfere with their duties and responsibilities at Western. The conditions of your continued employment must conform to the stipulations of the current faculty load guidelines in every respect. Any special assignment for which teaching load credit is granted can be permitted only with proper administrative approval. You are also expected to maintain office hours, be available for counseling with students, and attend faculty meetings and commencement programs.

I would like to express my personal appreciation and the appreciation of the University for all that you have done to make it possible for Western to fulfill its role in higher education. I pledge to you my personal support and the support of the President's Office in our continued efforts to provide an atmosphere in which you can realize greater professional achievements and in which the University will reach new levels of accomplishment.

Best wishes are extended to you for continued success in the important work which you are doing, and I invite you to call upon me if I can be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Dero G. Downing
Dero G. Downing
President

jd
Enclosure



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

April 12, 1971

Office of The President

Dear Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke:

At the meeting of the Board of Regents on January 9, 1971, authorization was given to proceed with the preparation of the 1971-72 operating budget. The Board endorsed the recommendation for continued priority to be given to the strengthening of the University salary schedule, with instructions to proceed in accordance with previously approved plan. As a result, the matter of salary increments is again given prime consideration as a part of the Western operating budget.

I am happy to inform you that your regular salary has been increased from \$ 17,000 to \$ 17,940, effective August 16, 1971.

The degree of success which Western may achieve in the fulfillment of its stated purposes and objectives is dependent upon the coordinated and combined efforts of each of us. In pledging to you my personal support and the support of the President's Office, let me also express to you the appreciation of the University for the contribution which you are making to the continued progress and development of the school.

Best wishes are extended to you and yours, and I invite you to call upon me if I can be of help in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Dero G. Downing

Dero G. Downing
President

DGD/gb

Encl.



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

April 3, 1970

Office of The President

Dear Dr. Kenneth W. Clarke:

At the meeting of the Board of Regents on February 21, 1970, authorization was given to proceed with the preparation of the 1970-71 operating budget. The Board endorsed the recommendation for continued priority to be given to the strengthening of the University salary schedule, with instructions to proceed in accordance with previously approved plan. As a result, the matter of salary increments is again given prime consideration as a part of the Western operating budget.

I am happy to inform you that your regular salary has been increased from \$ 15,456 to \$ 17,000 , effective August 16, 1970.

Your 1969-70 salary has been increased by a total of \$ 1,544 , which includes a salary adjustment of \$ 564 and an increment of \$ 980 .

Your present appointment, as you know, is based on the previous University calendar. However, the revised calendar for the coming academic year makes it desirable to adjust the effective date of the new appointment. I trust you will find this arrangement to your liking. You will receive a check on August 15 in the amount of one-twelfth of your current salary, which will represent final payment for the 1969-70 school year. Your salary for the new appointment becomes effective August 16 and will be paid to you on the 15th of each month during the contract period that terminates August 15, 1971.

The degree of success which Western may achieve in the fulfillment of its stated purposes and objectives is dependent upon the coordinated and combined efforts of each of us. In pledging to you my personal support and the support of the President's Office, let me also express to you the appreciation of the University for the contribution which you are making to the continued progress and development of the school.

Best wishes are extended to you and yours, and I invite you to call upon me if I can be of help in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dero G. Downing".

Dero G. Downing
President

DGD/mch

Encl.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101



Office of Academic Services



MEMORANDUM

July 22, 1969

TO: Mr. Harry K. Largen, Business Manager
FROM: Dr. Henry N. Hardin, Associate Dean *H. H.*

Dr. Kenneth Clarke was authorized under the Kentucky Heritage Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to receive \$1,962.00 during the months of June, July, and August. Dr. Clarke's name was included in the regular summer payroll for \$1,845.00. Papers were subsequently filed with your office for the \$1,962.00. Mrs. Belle Chandler in your office noted the duplication and brought it to my attention. Consequently, Mrs. Chandler is holding, at my request, the papers for the \$1,962.00. I suggest that Dr. Clarke receive the \$1,845.00, and that he be paid the additional \$117.00 due him.

HNH:mm

cc: Dr. Raymond Cravens
Dr. John Scarborough
Dr. Kenneth Clarke

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE
Bowling Green, Kentucky

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

July 9, 1964
(Date)

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Dero Downing, Dean of Business Affairs

The name of Dr. Kenneth Clarke
should be added to the payroll effective September 1, 1964
should be removed from the payroll _____
at a salary of \$9,000.00 per year, paid over twelve months
Assignment Department of English

Comments:

Repeat Dr. Obozaki

Frederick Thompson
President

This is to confirm that the name of

has been (added to) (removed from)
the payroll in accordance with the
above instructions

Payroll Clerk

Dean of Business Affairs

cc: Dean Raymond L. Cravens

July 9, 1964

AIR MAIL

Dr. Kenneth Clarke
Dr. Mary W. Clarke
322 West Riverside Drive
Jeffersonville, Indiana

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Clarke:

Dean Raymond L. Cravens has advised me of your acceptances of positions in our Department of English. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to officially welcome you to Western.

Your salaries, as you know, for the twelve-months' period have been set at \$9,000.00 and \$7,800.00 respectively, effective September 1. In addition, you would be paid a stipend for summer school teaching, should your services be required.

The general policy of the College is that a faculty member carry a normal work load of at least fifteen hours per week and that he, or she, make himself available to the institution for a minimum of an additional twenty hours per week. Among the duties falling in the latter category are, guidance and counseling of students as pertain to his teaching area, professional office hours, etc. The right is reserved to use your services over a six-day week.

Dean Cravens, Dr. Wood, and I are all exceedingly pleased over your acceptances of these positions. We look forward to working with you and having you as members of our faculty.

Enclosed are personal data sheets which we would like for you to complete and return, along with two glossy-type photographs of each of you, just as soon as possible. Any size photograph will suffice. This material will be used in connection with newspaper releases.

If I can be of personal service to you and your family in anyway, I hope that you will not hesitate to let me know.

With every good and kind personal wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Kelly Thompson
President

Encls.
cc: Dean Raymond L. Cravens
Dr. Willson E. Wood

Dr. Clarke, Keneth W.

October 7, 1964



10/7/64
Dr. Keneth W. Clarke
ENGLISH

Dr. Clarke has been the assistant director and associate professor at the Indiana University extension in Jeffersonville for the past two years. He taught previously at Washington State University, Indiana University, Chico (Calif.) State College, and the University of Nevada. Dr. Clarke was awarded both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington State. He received the Ph.D degree from Indiana University in 1958. He is married to Dr. Mary Clarke and they have a daughter, Suzi, 19.

21

KENNY AND BILLY
OR
It Happened One Spring

(To be sung to Beatle tune "A Little Help.")

Billy McMahon met Kenny O'Clark
Outside Van Meter Hall one spring morn.
Said Kenny to Bill, "Boy, you're runnin' uphill,
And I'll beatcha as sure as you're born."

Oh, I'll get it by with a little help from my friends.
Yeh, I'll go high with a little help from my friends.

(Do you need anybody?)

Well, I do need twenty-two votes.

(Could you use anybody?)

As long as they wear ties and coats.

Said Billy to Ken, "Kid, I think it's a sin
How you're pushin' this relevance trick.
Better look out. Wash is startin' to pout,
And you're makin' the old ladies sick."

See, I'll get help of my own from my friends.
And I'll get lit for lit's sake from those friends.

(Do you need anybody?)

Naw, I've got all the help that I need.

(Could you use anybody?)

No, I have my God and my seed.

Then Kenny smiled down at Billy's bright crown
And indulgently sighed, "Oh well,
Guess I'll just write a new letter tonight,
And report you to Lynwood Montell."

Man, I'll get by with a little help from my friends.
Hey, I'll go high with a little help from my friends.

(Do you need anybody?)

Not when I stand for the right.

(Could you use anybody?)

No, I'm reading my Hamlet tonight.

I'll get by with that ghost on the wall.
And I'll get 'lore with a little help from Y'all.

LETS
TALK
ABOUT

POETRY

5/28/67

By DORIS MILLER

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Clarke, who live at 1525 Park Street, Bowling Green, Ky., teach in Western Kentucky University, and together edit the Kentucky Folklore Record, are better known in Huntington than some of their friends will recognize at once on seeing the names. Mrs. Clarke is Dr. Mary Washington Clarke, a teacher in Marshall University for several years.

Born and reared in the hills of West Virginia, Dr. Mary Clarke is a graduate of Marshall and of West Virginia University, where a course in the ballad and folk music sparked a keener interest in the folklore of her early surroundings than she had known before. When she went to the University of Pennsylvania to work on her doctorate, she chose "Folklore in the Cumberlands as Reflected in the Writings of Jesse Stuart" as the topic of her doctor's dissertation.

Ken Clarke has his Ph.D. in folklore also, from the University of Indiana at Bloomington. Together, the Clarkes have written a couple of small textbooks in the field and edited "A Concise Dictionary of Folklore" in connection with their Folklore Record. And Mary is still enthusiastic about Jesse Stuart — she has completed a manuscript on the folklore in his writing that is likely to become a classic in the study, which now is growing in popularity in university English departments.

Ken Clarke likes birds, too, and is continually puttering in the backyard to add to their comfort. If you find the following poem has an unexpected twist at the ending, remember it's himself he's satirizing, not the birds!

PURPLE PETS

*The summer backyard bustle now
Is in full swing, and what a row
The Martins made!*

*They had to chase the Starlings out
And put the Sparrows all to rout
In one big raid.*

*How could such a graceful bird
Act so perfectly absurd
About his bed?*

*He tried to shove a crooked stick
As long as he, almost as thick
As his own head*

*Into a box with hole too small
To let in fussy bird and all
His enterprise.*

*He got it done, but what a mess!
A pallet on the floor, no less—
Yet proper size.*

*The nest lacks form and finish, true,
But watchful people take their cue,
And they provide*

*A man-style house with roof and floors
And Martin holes to serve as doors
To rooms inside.*

*The fact that birds will live in it
Will serve to prove that people fit
In Nature's plan.*

*Oh, let us pray that birds will never
Thrive without backyard endeavor*

Of simple Man. —Kenneth W. Clarke

NTUCKY

Grant Is Awarded For Folk Interpretation

A Western Kentucky University professor is the recipient of a public program grant totaling \$34,710 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington D. C.

Dr. Kenneth Clarke, professor of English, will direct a year-long program entitled "Kentucky Heritage," which will seek to provide the public an interpretation of the folk traditions of the state by drawing on the resources of the Kentucky Museum and the Kentucky Library located on Western's campus, the new Educational Television facilities of the state and faculty members at Western.

Twenty-nine grants were offered by the Humanities Endowment totaling approximately half a million dollars.

The endowment is an independent government agency authorized by Congress to promote scholarship, research and public understanding of the humanities in the United States.

The grant, which sponsors "Kentucky Heritage," is the only one offered in the state.

The program will reach the public through ETV, radio and public appearances.

The program will utilize materials in the region with distinctive "Kentucky" origins. These will include:

—Legendary and factual records of Mammoth Cave.

—Shaker Community at South Union concentrating on historical aspects, music, dance, art and philosophy.

—Research on folklore in Kentucky.

—The state heritage of architecture as it relates to traditionally designed log houses, barns, cribs, and other structures such as covered bridges.

—A Survey of the condition of the area prior to white settlement.

—Festive occasions unique to Kentucky such as "court day", "jockey grounds", "association meetings" "funeralizing" and numerous other occasions.

An emphasis on the development of principal Kentucky crops such as burley tobacco.

—Place names, personalities and events, real and fictitious, that have played a role in the shaping of the self-image of Kentuckians.

Clarke, who holds a Ph.D. degree in folklore from Indiana University, said "The aim (of the program) in brief, is to sift out the true from the false, the enduring from the temporary, to seek and find the worthy strands of traditional culture from the beginning to the present in Kentucky."

PCDN, 1
3-30-69

Western professor publishes book

A Warren County legend is the source of a book written by Dr. Kenneth Clark, professor of English and folklore at Western Kentucky University.

"Uncle Bud Long: The Birth of a Kentucky Folk Legend" will be published Saturday by the University Press of Kentucky.

The Long family lived near Clark's Landing in the Hadley Community for about 20 years early in this century.

The stories surrounding their strange ways told by old-time residents of the community and those who heard the stories by word of mouth are the subject of the book.

In the book, Clarke weaves the stories of the Bud Long family into a loose narrative and analyses the ways in which the anecdotes have been transmitted in the process of retelling.

"The work is a brief analysis of the legend-making process, and how this process functions in understanding the origins of literature," Clarke said.

Clarke received the bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington State University and the PhD degree from Indiana University.

People you know

DN 10-30-75

RECEIVES AWARD

Dr. Kenneth Clarke, director of the Kentucky Heritage Project at Western Kentucky University, has been awarded a 1975 Media Award by the Kentucky School Media Association at its annual luncheon Oct. 10 in Louisville.

The 900-member branch of the Kentucky Library Association nominated Dr. Clarke for the award on the basis of six folklife filmstrips he had developed for distribution to public school libraries.

Dr. Clarke delivered the award plaque to the personnel of Media Services at Western.

THE HADLEY COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD will meet at 6:30 p.m. A center business meeting will follow at 7 p.m. After the short business meeting, Drs. Kenneth and Mary Clarke will present a special program for all ages.

DN 3/31/76

Secrets of folklore

Two at WKU considered among most knowledgeable

By SALLY FRANCIS

Daily News Special Writer

Folklorists might well be considered masters of English, literature, art, music and the social sciences. For folklore is the study of those facets which make up a specific culture; language, literature, traditions, beliefs and attitudes.

The folklorist who is deeply involved in his work may find it impossible to pull himself out of the study once he has taken that addictive dive into the web of related subject areas. Because folklore holds many secrets and small pieces that fit together to form the blueprint of modern innovations and creative works.

Drs. Kenneth and Mary Clarke are two of the state's most knowledgeable authorities on folklore in Kentucky as well as regions in the West and East. Both are in the English Department at Western Kentucky University, teaching English courses and graduate and undergraduate courses in folklore. And both members of the academic couple are writers, and field collectors for archival holdings. Mary has written a book on Jesse Stuart entitled "Jesse Stuart's Kentucky," and Kenneth's book researched on Uncle Bud Long, a true Warren County native who became a legendary character, will appear in August. Both Clarkes have edited folklore readers, journals and have written textbooks for their classes.

The folklore authorities have been at Western for 10 years. The couple said they were inspired to come to Western because of its well established folklore program which is the best in the state. WKU is the only school in Kentucky and one of not more than 15 schools in the nation offering a graduate degree in folk studies. And the school's archive holdings have been here since the 1930's. They said they were also inspired by the late Dr. Gordon Wilson Sr. who was a famous folklorist and head of the English Department at Western and the other knowledgeable persons in the folklore area such as D.K. Wilgus and Dr. Lynnwood Montell.

Dr. Kenneth Clarke graduated from Washington State University, located in his native state with honors. He received his doctorate in folklore at Indiana University which at that time was the only school in the nation offering a doctorate program in this subject.

"When one starts to study folklore one gets involved with customs, beliefs, artifacts and ceremonial rituals, so in that area you are never quite certain as to where folklore exactly

fits," he said. "But I feel that the roots of folklore can be found in English because of the language and literature. Then one can begin to understand the songs, art and customs.

"Lots of people don't understand how we can be in English and be out looking in moonshine stills," he continued. "But you get lured into seeing the larger picture. Sometimes fellow workers express wonder, or mock wonder, at our interest in the lowly folktale when there is so much great literature, to read, or interest in the lowly folksong when there is so much great music to appreciate. Of course, we appreciate great literature, music and art. Mary and I appreciate them so much that we want to understand more about the complex forces that have produced these and other end-products of a long, cumulative tradition. Our inquiry leads us back to the grassroots of culture, back to the folk idiom, the folk belief, the oral history, to the many other manifestations of man's urge to create and embellish."

Clarke met Mary Washington at Chico State College, Chico, Calif. She has received her doctorate in English and minored in folklore at the University of Pennsylvania and taught folklore courses at the California school. The couple did field collecting for Chico's archives. After their marriage, they went to the University of Nevada for two years for more research and collecting. Then before coming to Bowling Green the Clarkes taught at Indiana's southeastern campus in Jeffersonville, Ind. He introduced folklore there.

He considers himself a general folklorist while Mary, he said, would be considered an American folklorist, specializing in regional dialects.

A native of that section of West Virginia across the Big Sandy River from Kentucky, Mary Clarke is familiar with the customs of this region. She based a thesis at University of Pennsylvania on the folklore of the Cumberlands as reflected in the writings of Kentucky novelist and poet Jesse Stuart. Her book on Stuart is one-third of that thesis.

"I had so much information on this area that I have written other articles on the region," she said. "Dialects and folklore songs are my greatest interest.

"I am more of an insider in Kentucky than is Ken," she said. "We don't even call certain things by the same names. In Warren County there are some things that are more old fashioned than in Greenup County, where Jesse Stuart lived, like in the dress and their methods of making sorghum and other things."

"I grew up in the West," Kenneth commented, "so the things that I see as unique are regional to my wife. So in one aspect, I am looking at this area's culture with novelty."

In field collecting material from Warren County, the Clarkes said county auctions give them more insight. "We are impressed with the ingenuity of these people. Auctions give us ideas of the kind of tools they used, old plows, hand made chairs, baskets, iron pots, fire tools and carpenter tools. There are still folks in this county that spin and card their own cotton. In parts of rural Warren County we found as much old-fashioned traditional ways of life that you would find in eastern Kentucky.

"Anyone in Warren County," Kenneth continued, "can tell you what staging string is because it's part of their traditional culture. But the word cannot be found in any dictionary anywhere. It is strictly a folk term. This is an example of persistence of pioneer crafts right up to the Space Age. Warren County has certain legendary places that are peculiar to us only. And every county has its own special sayings and traditions."

He explained that one of this area's more widely known legendary places are Lost River and Sally's Rock.

"It is a place name like Lick Skillet. But when you go out to track the places down, it often gets more difficult to separate fact from legend. It is a part of the underlying identity for a community. These give us our own distinctive folklore."

Kenneth tells the story of Sally's Rock as a place known widely at a time when there was a great deal of river traffic through the Bowling Green area. The small community at Rockland had a post office and a voting center. There is no community there now. A young girl, Sally Beck, used to collect the mail pack that the boats delivered where the Gasper River and Barren River join. She became a colorful character to the river people and to those who remembered the girl standing on a large rock overlooking the river waiting for the mail.

The academic couple agree that in folklore studies there is a constant renewing of the subject through field collecting.

"The most basic of all folk expression is the language itself," Mary Clarke said. "Again and again folk studies will lead the inquirer back to the folk idiom. Poets, novelists and journalists use the language, often very effectively or beautifully, but they do not create it. The folk create language. Lexicographers and

linguists record it and study it, but the folk go on re-creating and reshaping it. Academicians have sometimes fallen into the error of deploring their own language, or of trying to set up rules for its use, just as naive students sometimes seem to believe that Webster created the language and decreed its spelling and usage for all time."

The Clarkes praise basic research more than non-original research that a student would do in the library. They explain field collecting as being that special kind of basic research. "Basic research is the yeast of scholarship," the Clarkes said. "Critics and commentators, lacking basic research, which is new information, shortly run down into sterile repetition of each other's ideas. They must have new input."

The Margie Helm Library at Western has an extensive compilation of folk material from the collections of students and faculty.

In the WKU library, more than 100,000 discrete annotations, or bits of information, related to field-collected language data have been collected in Warren and neighboring counties. Products of this material have already

been used in publications. For representatives, Smithsonian Institute to Western to informants to assist collecting material. Smithsonian's American Folklore Kentucky was the spotlight at this year. The representation about three leads to take to Washington in the festival.

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been used in scholarly publications. For example, representatives from the Smithsonian Institution came to Western to find folklore informants to assist them in collecting material for the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folklore, where Kentucky was the state in the spotlight at this year's festival. The representatives found about three leads on persons to take to Washington to perform in the festival.

Rather than instruct their students to write the conventional term paper, the Clarkes instruct them to go out and do their own field collecting and interviewing. In this manner, they explain, the student gets much more involved in folklore and becomes stimulated to learn about his or her own local history. "It is from this collective material that most of our academic insights are formed," they said.

"The discipline of folklore has the peculiar quality of calling the students' attention to the relatedness of knowledge and processes," Kenneth once wrote to his students. "There is a relationship, for instance, between the design of a traditional mule-ear hickory

bottom chair or a saddlebag house and a ballad or an invocation to the muse. A student fully aware of the concept of the folk esthetic and its implications could develop the idea. The student who can develop that idea is much closer to seeing the world in a grain of sand than is the student who can dutifully parrot his instructor's textbook pronouncements on the life and works of an author — too often isolated from experience, contemporary relevance, or even any kind of verifiable truth."

Reflecting on the addiction the couple share to folklore, Kenneth said, "We recognize that a person recalls certain things only vaguely. Then we might realize our field collecting was possibly 50 years too late. This happens, but not all this is 'old timey.' You can collect traditional sayings, beliefs, etc. from young people, it is a living phenomenon. Essentially, folklore is the kind of knowledge that isn't official knowledge. Meaning it is the kind people share orally or through show and tell."

"Once you know how powerful and tenacious folk culture is you will understand

Continued Page 6
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(Staff Photo by Paul Hightower)

DRS. MARY AND KENNETH CLARKE hold some of their folk treasures. She is holding a quilt made of 8,000 pieces of material hand-sewn together by one of her neighbors. Clarke is showing a broad ax used in squaring logs.

In the background are a spinning wheel and various metal objects hanging over the fireplace at the couple's home in west Warren County.



Author honored

PRESS COMMITTEE HONORS AUTHOR — The University Press Committee at Western Kentucky University held a reception and autographing party in honor of Dr. Kenneth Clarke, professor of English and folk studies in the Regents Room of Wetherby Administration Building. Dr. Clarke (right)

is pictured above autographing his new book "Uncle Bud Long: The Birth of a Kentucky Folk Legend" for Dr. John Minton (right), vice president for administrative affairs. Looking on is Donald L. Armstrong, director of public relations.

From legend

Book weaves story of Long family

Uncle Bud Long, his daughter, Janey, and her son, Frankie, lived near Clark's Landing in the Hadley Community of Warren County for about 20 years early in this century.

The stories surrounding their strange ways told by old-time residents of the community and those who heard the stories by word of mouth are the subject of a Western professor's recent book.

"Uncle Bud Long: The Birth of a Kentucky Folk Legend" is written by Dr. Kenneth Clarke, professor of English and folklore at Western Kentucky University. The book was published by the University Press of Kentucky.

In the book, Clarke weaves the stories of the Bud Long family into a loose narrative and analyses the ways in which the anecdotes have been transmitted in the process of retelling.

Frequently, elements common to folklore throughout the world are drawn from the raw material or grafted onto it to suit the humor of the teller, often in opposition to common sense or even historical evidence.

This analysis of the stories of Uncle Bud reveals much about the delicate process by which the oral folk tradition grows and thrives. Clarke claims that from such humble roots ultimately grows much of what we think of "literature."

"The work is a brief analysis

of the legend-making process, and how this process functions in understanding the origins of literature," says Clarke.

Clarke received the bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington State University and the PhD degree from Indiana University.

SHOULD AN ENGLISH MAJOR TAKE ENGLISH 477?

WHY NOT?

"Let me make the superstitions of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws, or its songs either."

--Mark Twain

Imaginative research--or imaginative teaching, which is just a special kind of research, can permit us to see the world in a grain of sand. Unfortunately, there is another kind of teaching that stresses the grains of sand without relating them to the world.

The discipline of folklore has the peculiar quality of calling the students' attention to the relatedness of knowledge and processes. There is a relationship, for instance, between the design of a traditional mule-ear hickory bottom chair or a saddlebag house and a ballad or an invocation to the muse. There is not space here to trace that relationship in detail, but a student fully aware of the concept of the folk esthetic and its implications could develop the idea. The student who can develop that idea is much closer to seeing the world in a grain of sand than is the student who can dutifully parrot his instructor's textbook pronouncements on the life and works of an author--too often isolated from experience, contemporary relevance, or even any kind of verifiable truth.

An English major would not necessarily contaminate his knowledge of periods, authors, and genres by extending his view to include a wider range of the creative products of culture. Such an extended view might, indeed, be the key to unlock the door to association, understanding, and appreciation.

A recent article in the Journal of American Folklore paid passing attention to the fact that over one hundred major books and articles had been generated by the oral-formulaic theories applied to epic literature. The writer observed further that this scholarship represented the greatest contribution to studies of Old English in the past century. Such a breakthrough extends ultimately to classical literature as well, and to the literary epic, which needs re-evaluation in the light of new knowledge about what it pretends to imitate.

This bit of fresh air admitted to the musty realm of repetitious and sometimes erroneous commentaries on many aspects of our literature and language had its beginnings in field collection. The collections were the songs of illiterate mountain people, both Appalachian and Albanian. The collectors, appropriately, were from Harvard University, the original home of both the American Folklore Society and the Journal of American Folklore. The professors were engaged in original research. They made, and are still making, original and meaningful contributions to the knowledge of language and literature.

Should an English major be protected from taking courses other than those related to major literary works? Yes, if we want to continue to practice a narrow exclusiveness that does not recognize the intimate relationship of language and its many kinds of products and the relationship of those products to other creative expressions of the human mind.

Kenneth W. Clarke



11-21 Dr. Kenneth Clarke

HBVH hear Dr. Clarke

The Ohio Co News

Dr. Kenneth Clarke, professor of English and folklore at Western Kentucky University, visited Horse Branch School Friday, November 15, and spoke to the Horse Branch Young Historians.

His presentation was entitled "Historical Kentucky Reflected in Its Artifacts." As students examined articles, Dr. Clarke presented information on artifacts and encouraged students to begin their own collections of valuable "junk".

The program was a part of Western Kentucky University's Bicentennial Program Services.

Mr and Mrs Tullis Baird of Hartford, visited Sunday with his brother, Charlie Baird and Mrs Baird, of Grand Rivers.

Franklin Favorite

9-19-74

WKU lecture

series features

Bicentennial

Ky. gunsmiths

Western Kentucky University's Bicentennial Lecture series will feature Dr. L.Y. Lancaster, who will speak on "Some Gunsmiths of South Central Kentucky" in the fifth lecture of the series at the Kentucky Building Thursday, Sept. 19.

The lecture-demonstration will begin at 7:15 p.m. and is open to the public without charge.

How to load and fire old Kentucky rifles will be demonstrated directly behind the Kentucky Building at 6:30 p.m. by Marshall Love Jr. of Bowling Green.

The Kentucky Building series is designed to stress the cultural heritage of Kentucky in conjunction with the University's observance of the Kentucky Bicentennial, according to Kentucky Librarian Riley Handy.

Western's speaker, Dr. Lancaster, was honored by the University in 1969 when a wing of the Academic Complex was named in his honor, the L.Y. Lancaster Hospital Clinic. The retired Western faculty member has been called "father" of the University's pre-medical program, having instituted much of the program's curricula.