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DEDICATION

ACADEMIC-ATHLETIC BUILDING--E.A. DIDDLE ARENA

DECEMBER 7 1963



Scrap Book

Dedication
of
ACADEMIC - ATHLETIC BUILDING
and
E. A. DIDDLE ARENA

DECEMBER 7, 1963



INFORMATION
for
PRESS, RADIO, TELEVISION

DR. KELLY THOMPSON

1.

Statement by Dr. Kelly Thompson, President of Western, on the occasion of the dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena, Saturday, December 7, 1963:

All who love Western and who are interested in its progress cherish this day of the dedication of the magnificent Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena. We are both humble and happy because it marks an extraordinary milestone in the life and development of our College, and brings to Western the realization of a dream in which so many people have participated.

This multi-purpose building which we dedicate opens a new era of academic, athletic, and cultural possibilities for the entire geographic area. The building's architectural expression is, I think, symbolic of the impact which it will have upon our college program; its physical proportions are symbolic of the size of the challenge which lies before all of us who are interested in the education of our youth; its beauty is symbolic of the opportunity which we have here and throughout Kentucky to blend the utilitarian with the aesthetic.

The creation of this building would have been impossible without the united thinking and cooperation of many people in positions of responsibility. To identify, here, all who have aided in its accomplishment would be impossible; but to each, Western's gratitude is expressed and, in the expressing, is felt overwhelmingly. On behalf of the Board of Regents, the alumni, the faculty, and the student body, I extend Western's deepest appreciation to every person who has aided in any manner in bringing this great facility to reality.

To all who gather for the dedication, Western extends its warmest welcome. We are honored to be with you on this memorable occasion. It is our hope that you will return, and return, as this facility is put to use to build a better and greater Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely yours,

Kelly Thompson
President

Evening Program, December 7

1. Ladies and gentlemen, we will officially begin this program with a touch of flowers for the flowers which grew at Western during the past football season, culminating in the championship of the Ohio Valley Conference and Western's entry into the 1963 Tangerine Bowl, following which, ~~with even greater respect, because of the events of the past two weeks,~~ we will have the Flag Raising Ceremonies by the Pershing Rifle Color Guard and our National Anthem ^{with} by Mrs. Jeanette Rider Sallee. *as soloist*

2. Dedication statement--see attached

3. Introduction of Stage Guests: (see attached)

4. Comments on telegrams and letters of congratulations from across the nation. See telegrams attached.

Read telegram from Governor Elect Edward T. Breathitt

5. Introduction of Lt. Governor Wilson W. Wyatt

(Make reference to date of January 6, 1960)

Introduction of Guests - Afternoon Program

Mr. Frank Cain and
Mr. Ben Johnson, Associated Architects, and Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Johnson

Department of Finance

Mr. David H. Pritchett, Commissioner, and Mrs. Pritchett

Other Members of the Department of Finance

Mr. W. T. McConnell, Chief, Engineering Staff, and Mrs. McConnell
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hancock
Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Twaryonas
Mr. Brucker Miller

Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Armstrong
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Holloday

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Tabor

Mr. C. W. Batey, Mechanical Engineer, and Mrs. Batey
Mr. John R. Wilkie, Structural Engineer, and Mrs. Wilkie
Mr. Charles D. Wade, Mechanical Engineer, and Mrs. Wade
Mr. Thomas W. Waldron, Jr., Mechanical Engineer, and Mrs. Waldron

Mr. S. J. Clark, President, Clark Construction Company, General Contractor,
and Mrs. Clark
Mr. G. Von Anderson, Construction Superintendent, Clark Construction Company,
and Mrs. Anderson

Other State Officials

Judge John B. Palmore, Court of Appeals, and Mrs. Palmore
Mr. Walter Herdman, Court of Appeals, and Mrs. Herdman
Mr. Emerson Beauchamp, Commissioner of Agriculture
Mr. Mack Sisk, Director of Industrial Promotion, and Mrs. Sisk
Mr. Field McChesney, Department of Public Information, and Mrs. McChesney
Mr. J. David Francis, Chairman, Public Service Commission, and Mrs. Francis
Mr. J. Paul Hunter, District Engineer, State Department of Highways, and
Mrs. Hunter

Stage Participants - Evening Program

Mr. Ben Johnson)
) Associated Architects
Mr. Frank Cain)

Frankfort Officials

Mr. David H. Pritchett, Commissioner of Finance

Mr. W. T. McConnell, Chief, Engineering Staff

Mr. Brucker Miller, Engineering Staff

Mr. Carl Hancock, Engineering Staff

Mr. LeRoy Murphy, Engineering Staff

Mr. Alex Twaryonas, Engineering Staff

Mr. Milton Holloday

Mr. C. M. Tabor, Purchases

Mr. Emerson Beauchamp, Commissioner of Agriculture

Mr. John R. Wilkie, Structural Engineer

Mr. C. W. Batey, Mechanical Engineer

Mr. Charles D. Wade, Mechanical Engineer

Mr. Thomas W. Waldron, Jr., Mechanical Engineer

Mr. S. J. Clark, President, Clark Construction Company, General Contractor

Mr. G. Von Anderson, Construction Superintendent, Clark Construction Company

Representing Bowling Green and Warren County

Mayor R. D. Graham

Mayor Elect James Topmiller

Judge Basil Griffin

(3)

Building Committee

Mr. L. T. Smith

Mr. Dero Downing, Chairman, Dedication Committee

Mr. Robert Cochran

Mr. Owen Lawson

Dr. Thomas J. Stone

Dr. Raymond L. Cravens

Dr. Paul G. Hatcher

Lt. Colonel Grover G. Smith

Mr. Charles A. Keown

Mr. Ted Hornback

Mr. Nick Denes

Dr. Russell Miller

Mr. E. A. Diddle

Board of Regents

Regent Wendell P. Butler

Regent Hugh Poland

Regent Douglas Keen

Regent Bemis Lawrence

Regent Gerald Edds

Regent Maxey B. Harlin

Regent J. T. Gilbert

Transcript of Radio Broadcast
Dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building and the E. A. Diddle Arena
Western Kentucky State College
December 7, 1963

Radio Announcer:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, from Bowling Green, Kentucky, where Radio Station WLBJ is proud to be on hand for the dedication of the new Academic-Athletic Building and the E. A. Diddle Athletic Arena here on the campus of our local college. Now, this afternoon's program will highlight the dedication of the new Academic-Athletic Building. Tonight it will be the dedication of the E. A. Diddle Arena at 6:30.

"Pomp and Circumstance"..... Elgar

Radio Announcer:

At the present time the Western brass ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Bennie Beach, is playing as the choral group has moved into this huge structure of Western Kentucky State College; and now, ladies and gentlemen, the academic procession has begun, and the faculty and visiting dignitaries are moving into the giant enclosure here on the campus of Western Kentucky State College. Immediately following "Pomp and Circumstances," by the brass ensemble, we will have the Choral Invocation--"The Lord's Prayer," under the direction of the Western choir director, Mr. Ohm Pauli..

Choral Invocation--"The Lord's Prayer"..... Malotte

Radio Announcer:

At this time, ladies and gentlemen, we will take you to the stage in the middle of the Arena, where the dedication proceedings will take place. But right now, the faculty of Western Kentucky State College is moving into this great structure. The procession is entering from one of the upper tier doors in this giant enclosure, a beautiful building, here on the campus of Western Kentucky State College. As the procession moves along slowly, directly in front of our broadcasting location here at the College, it will come down the stairs to our right, and then the dignitaries, including the Governor of Kentucky, the Honorable Bert Combs, will go to the stage. Dr. Kelly Thompson, President of Western Kentucky State College, is now moving down to our right, ladies and gentlemen, followed by the Governor of our state. The procession, right now, ladies and gentlemen, is moving directly in front of our broadcasting spot at Western Kentucky State College, and as the academic procession moves on down the floor, we will proceed with the ceremonies here this afternoon, dedicating the new Academic-Athletic Building; and then tonight we would like to extend a cordial invitation for you to be on hand for the dedication of the E. A. Diddle Arena. The academic procession is very colorful as the professors and the heads of the departments at Western Kentucky State College are moving onto the basketball floor at the present time, where they will be seated for the dedication ceremony this afternoon.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Western faculty has just moved in as the Western brass ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Bennie Beach, played "Pomp and Circumstance." And, now, we will pick up the Western choir under the direction of Mr. Ohm Pauli.

Ladies and gentlemen, that was the Western choir under the direction of Mr. Ohm Pauli, singing "The Lord's Prayer." At this time we will have the introduction of the platform guests to the crowd gathered here in the Arena. Now, ladies and gentlemen, here is Dr. Kelly Thompson.

Dr. Kelly Thompson: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the formal dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building and the E. A. Diddle Arena of Western Kentucky State College. I would like to read a statement which I think expresses fully the feeling of the College at this hour:

"All who love Western and who are interested in its progress cherish this day of dedication of the magnificent Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena. We are both humble and happy, because it marks an extraordinary milestone in the life and development of our College and brings to Western the realization of a dream in which many people have participated.

"This multi-purpose building which we dedicate opens a new era of academic, athletic, and cultural possibilities for the entire geographic area. The building's architectural

expression is, we think, symbolic of the impact which it will have upon our college program; its physical proportions are symbolic of the size of the challenge which lies before all of us who are interested in the education of our youth. Its beauty is symbolic of the opportunity which we have here and which will be felt throughout Kentucky to blend the utilitarian with the aesthetic.

"The creation of this building would have been impossible without the united thinking and cooperation of many people in positions of responsibility. To identify here all who have aided in its accomplishment would be impossible; but to each Western's gratitude is expressed and, in the expressing, is felt overwhelmingly. On behalf of the Board of Regents, the alumni, the faculty, and the student body, I extend Western's deepest appreciation to every person who has aided in any manner in bringing this great facility to reality. To all who gather for the dedication here this afternoon and tonight, Western extends its warmest welcome. We are honored to be with you on the memorable occasion and to have you with us. It is our hope that you will return, and return, as this facility is put to use to build a better and greater Commonwealth of Kentucky."

Although, as I have said, it is impossible to identify all who have aided in the creation of this unusual academic-athletic facility, if you will allow me, I would like to point out a few. The foremost among these will be introduced to you later as

the speaker of this occasion. All who sit on this stage--as well as many in the audience--have worked so intimately and so diligently in bringing this building to reality, I would like to present to you at this time the stage guests.

Starting on my left, next to Governor Bert Combs, is Regent Maxey B. Harlin, then Regent Bemis Lawrence, Regent Gerald Edds, and Regent J. T. Gilbert--Dr. Gilbert, who is assuming office today, succeeds former Regent Owen Hammonds of Louisville.

On my right, next to Dean Raymond Cravens, who will present to you the chief speaker, is Mr. Wendell P. Butler, Chairman of our Board of Regents and retiring Superintendent of Public Instruction, followed by Regent Hugh Poland, Regent Douglas Keen, Dr. Merrill W. Schell, president of the Western Alumni Association, and Mr. Carson Culler, one of the speakers of this afternoon. Let's recognize the front row so they can sit down and we can see the back row.

Immediately back of these distinguished gentlemen, I present to you men who are either on the program this afternoon or who are members of the Building and Dedication Committee: Dr. Wilson E. Wood, Mr. L. T. Smith, chairman of the Building Committee, Dr. Thomas J. Stone, Lt. Col. Grover C. Smith, Mr. Nick Denes, Mr. Owen Lawson, and to my right in the back row, Mr. Robert Cochran, Dr. Paul G. Hatcher, Mr. Ted Hornback, Mr. Charles A. Keown, Dr. Russell Miller, and

Mr. Dero Downing, general chairman of this Dedication Committee.

I would like to present to you some of the distinguished guests who are in the audience. First, I present to you the architects who designed this building. We asked the architects to design a building with the central part forming an arena, and the bulk of the space to be devoted to classrooms and supporting space for academic departments. Their reply was that they thought such a multi-purpose building was feasible. We asked them about a circular building and whether such a design would eliminate wasted space. Their preliminary sketches provided the answer. Then we asked, "Can you give us this combination and beauty, too?" They said that they could, and they did, magnificently!

I present to you, with great pride, Mr. Ben Johnson of Owensboro, and Mr. Frank Cain of Bowling Green, and their wives, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cain. I would like to present to you the Commissioner of Finance of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, who has made a great contribution of his time and of his efforts in helping us bring this building to this point of dedication, and we are glad to have him and Mrs. Pritchett with us. Mr. David H. Pritchett, will you and Mrs. Pritchett please stand?

I wish that we could present everyone individually, but in the interest of good taste, we will forego that pleasure.

I would like to present to you now other members of the Department of Finance who honor us today with their presence--please stand and remain standing--Mr. W. T. McConnell, chief of the Engineering Staff, and Mrs. McConnell; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Twaryonas, Mr. Brucker Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Holloday, and Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Tabor.

I know this is somewhat out of line, but I am going to ask Mr. Brucker Miller to stand again. He has been with us in the mud and in the sunshine more than anybody else, and his help has been invaluable. Now, the architects had, of course, to depend upon some great engineers other than those in the Engineering Division of Kentucky; and they had great engineers. I present now, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Batey, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Wilkie, Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Wade, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Walden, Jr. Mr. Wilkie is the structural engineer; Mr. Batey, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Walden are the mechanical engineers.

Then we had to have somebody who is capable of building this great facility, and we had a fine company. I present to you now Mr. S. J. Clark--that's Si Clark--president of the Clark Construction Company, and Mrs. Clark; and Mr. D. Von Anderson, the superintendent and Mrs. Anderson.

We have some other State Officials to whom we certainly want to say a special word of welcome. If I may ask this group to stand at this time, wherever you may be: Judge John S. Palmore, of the Court of Appeals, and Mrs. Palmore; Mr. Walter Herdman, Assistant Attorney General, and Mrs. Herdman; Mr. Emerson Beauchamp, Commissioner of Agriculture; Mr. Mack Sisk, Director of Industrial Promotion, and Mrs. Sisk; Mr. Field McChesney, Department of Public Information, and Mrs. McChesney; Mr. J. David Francis, Public Service Commission, and Mrs. Francis; and Mr. J. Paul Hunter, District Engineer of the State Highway Department.

Representing the city of Bowling Green and Warren County, we would like to present to you Mayor R. D. Graham and Mrs. Graham, Mayor Elect James Topmiller and Mrs. Topmiller, Judge Basil Griffin, and Judge Robert M. Coleman and Mrs. Coleman.

And then, we get down to the truly important people who are gathered here this afternoon, and this constitutes a group of wives. I would like to present to you first, my own wife and the wives of the members of the Board of Regents-- Mrs. Kelly Thompson, Mrs. Bemis Lawrence, Mrs. Hugh Poland, Mrs. Douglas Keen, Mrs. Gerald Edds, Mrs. Maxey B. Harlin, and Mrs. J. T. Gilbert. I'll ask now that the wives of the Building Committee stand: Mrs. L. T. Smith, Mrs. Dero Downing, Mrs. Robert Cochran, Mrs. Owen Lawson, Mrs. Thomas J. Stone, Mrs. Raymond L. Cravens, Mrs. Paul G. Hatcher,

Mrs. Grover C. Smith, Mrs. Charles A. Keown, Mrs. Ted Hornback, Mrs. Billy Smith, Mrs. Nick Denes, and Mrs. E. A. Diddle--Mr. Diddle is occupying a seat of honor on the front row. Let's recognize these folks. I am going to ask Mrs. Wilson Wood, Mrs. Merrill Schell, and Mrs. Carson Culler, whose husbands are on the platform, and everybody else sitting in the special section and who hasn't been recognized, will you please stand?

You have been given a dedication program as you entered the building, and I am sure that all of you have noticed the center spread. It will be my pleasure now, as you will have indicated from this program, to present to you an outstanding member of our senior class, an outstanding football player, and an outstanding gentlemen--Mr. Carson Culler, who will represent the student body.

Mr. Carson Culler:

President Thompson, Governor Combs, distinguished guests, fellow students, ladies and gentlemen: Western is experiencing an exciting period of growth. This growth is so phenomenal that we students have to pinch ourselves sometimes to make sure that we are not just dreaming. Students who enrolled in 1960 have seen the enrollment more than double in the last four years. Not only has our school experienced growth in enrollment; Western has kept faith with a massive building program. Much credit for the success of Western lies within its strong, dedicated, and well-trained

faculty and administration. Their efforts have borne fruit in a large measure through the leadership and direction provided by our president, Dr. Kelly Thompson.

This man has been the leader, the guiding light that has shown the way, and the light that shall continue to show the way in the future. Every student in the College respects, admires, and loves this man's dedication to Western. Dr. Kelly Thompson, the students of Western salute you for your neverending endeavors to make Western what it is today. We are honored to be students under your guidance. This Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena will, throughout the years, be a monumental example of your diligent efforts.

Regardless of whether we are native Kentuckians, or whether we hail from distant states, Western has been better known to us than have other Kentucky colleges, mostly because of Coach E. A. Diddle and his colorful career in the field of athletics. He has served Western long and raised it to heights of glory. Few schools of our size can claim so many honors, and no other basketball coach has a record that compares with his. This Arena, which will be dedicated in his honor tonight, is a memorial to Mr. Diddle, and one well deserved. The Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena is one of the eleven structures which have been completed in the last three years, or will be completed in the near future. It stands apart, however, from the other buildings

--its beauty and magnificence are almost breath-taking.

Mr. Diddle, the student body takes great pleasure in this dedication, for you have been an inspiration to all of us. This building means a great deal to us. It is a symbol of the college which we are attending. When our friends and relatives visit the campus, we will point with pride to this building, telling them of the man whose name it bears. In years to come, as we look back on our college life, we will be proud to know that we were part of Western's greatest period of growth.

Dr. Thompson:

The Dedication Committee selected the head of the English Department to represent the faculty, and it is with great pride that I present to you now Dr. Wilson E. Wood, representing the faculty.

Dr. Wilson E. Wood:

President Thompson, ladies and gentlemen: I like to believe that my experience of this building began thirty-three years ago. At that time I was staying in a little room on top of the Hill, near the "Old Red Barn," which you will find pictured in your program. During that year I seldom left the Hilltop. My means of recreation was chiefly of strolling the paths of the campus, or viewing the scenery stretching from the Hilltop. My favorite hour was that between sunset and darkness. My favorite spot was the steps of the Administration Building. There I spent many evenings, watching sometimes the glorious sunsets, followed by shifting shadows, as houses, fields, farms, and highways blended into a great pool

of darkness.

Occasionally, I was joined by a casual passerby if the scenery was especially good. There was one, however, we would hardly call casual, or a passerby. If I remained long in that spot, I was very likely to see him. He presented a strong, somewhat imperial figure as he strode from the building to his car parked at the steps below. Though the hour was generally late for leaving one's office, he was not hurried; and he would stop and, somewhat in the same pose as that represented by his statue in front of Cherry Hall, he would peer down the Hill and across the valley and into the distances beyond. I suspected then, and I know now, that he was seeing far more than I could see. He was watching thousands of students come streaming in on 31-W, 68, and 231; he was watching structures of stone, brick, and steel rise from the grassy slopes around the brow of the Hill. The stately columns of the Kentucky Building were already well formed in his mind and soon to be transferred to the drawing board. I like to believe also that, far to the left, he could see the dim outlines of the dormitory complex; back to his right, next to the Kentucky Building, the beautiful State Hall; and in the center of the picture a great round dome of a magnificent structure--this building which we dedicate today.

Since November 13, 1961, I have watched this building take shape and take upon itself a beautiful form. During the

recent months, I have experienced this building as a threefold thing. I see it as a culmination in reality of that vision seen long ago. I see it as a monument to the strength and wisdom of our present leadership, and I see it as a symbol of what is to be. I am glad that our leaders kept in mind the dual purpose of the College when they planned and named this building, and it has come to mean to me in its well-rounded form a symbol of the sort of education which Western provides and shall continue to provide.

If I may, I would like to enlarge upon the famous definition of a school as a student on one end of a log and a certain teacher on the other, and say that thousands of students housed in buildings such as this and taught by a faculty dedicated to the proposition that "The Spirit Makes the Master" constitute the sort of college that I believe in, the sort of college which this building symbolizes, the sort of college that Western is today, and shall be tomorrow.

President Thompson, Governor Combs, the leadership which you have provided and this building which you have furnished are a great challenge to Western's faculty. We accept that challenge, and we pledge to you that so long as you provide such leadership, and so long as you furnish such buildings, we shall deliver to you an educational program of which you and all Kentuckians may be proud.

Dr. Thompson:

We are now honored to have the representative of the Alumni Association, and I believe that the Committee could not have chosen more wisely than to have selected the president of that group. He is Dr. Merrill W. Schell of Owensboro, Kentucky, and it is with pleasure that I present him to you to represent the alumni. Dr. Schell.

Dr. Merrill W. Schell:

President Thompson, Governor Combs, members of the Board of Regents, faculty and student body of Western Kentucky State College, ladies and gentlemen: It is a great privilege to represent Western alumni everywhere in the dedication of this great edifice--a building uniquely prepared for the task of the preparation of the youth of Kentucky, and of the Nation, for the great problems that lie ahead. As Western moves forward in its quest for superiority in higher education, this material improvement in the facilities of the College emphasizes the centralism of mental and physical development. Noting thereby that greatness can be accomplished only by concomitant progress in both of these key areas, how fitting it was that this monumental task was initiated on November 15, 1961, Founders Day at Western. The birthday of the immortal founder of Western, Dr. H. H. Cherry, was certainly the ideal moment for this auspicious step forward on the path to greatness.

Western alumni everywhere join in praise and appreciation of the tremendous vision and energy evidenced by our

dynamic president, Dr. Kelly Thompson, who, with the aid of a dedicated faculty and a loyal student body, convinced the Board of Regents and the Governor of Kentucky of the great need for this spectacular structure. We alumni are deeply indebted not only to all of the key people who figured prominently in the planning and direction of this Academic-Athletic Building, but also to all friends of Western everywhere, who by their devotion and support have helped to make this dream a reality.

Now, just over two years since ground-breaking day, Western alumni everywhere are pausing to contemplate the future of this great College, for the horizon of yesterday is the foreground of tomorrow, and the pursuit of greatness is in the very life blood of the administration, faculty, student body, and the alumni of the institution. With the continued support of the State Administration and of the Board of Regents, more, and possibly even greater, steps on the pathway to excellence in higher education at Western will come in the bright future of the College. For, who among us at Western twenty years ago could have invisioned the spectacular growth, physically and intellectually, in our College? --a growth which we have been privileged to witness as proud alumni through these years.

The spirit of Western abides with us today in this dedication exercise. Wherever Western alumni may be throughout

the world, this dynamic force exists at this very moment. The revolutionary new facility on our campus ensures that Western's spirit will produce more and more Masters in the years to come, and that for the young men and women of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, there will be LIFE, MORE LIFE. I thank you.

Dr. Thompson:

The College, in a large measure, is only a reflection of its board of control. Western is fortunate, very fortunate indeed, to have as members of this Board of Regents, outstanding, successful, professional, and business men. I want publicly to express appreciation to the Board of Regents for the magnificent help which they have given, not only in bringing into reality this building, but all other improvements for which Western is striving and has striven. And, now, to represent the Board of Regents, we have the pleasure of hearing from a local attorney and one of the finest Board Members any college has ever had, Mr. Maxey B. Harlin.

Mr. Maxey B. Harlin:

Governor Combs, President Thompson, Mr. Diddle, distinguished platform guests, distinguished guests of the College, and ladies and gentlemen: As man's intellect increases, it becomes almost as limitless as space, and as timeless as eternity. We marvel at Professor Einstein and his miracles in mathematics. As we know, he used by way of tools little more than a piece of chalk and a blackboard.

It was from the fruition of this great mind, and from the great minds of others, that brought into reality the awesomeness of atomic energy and the practicality of the man-made satellite.

When history called for an astronaut to circle the earth and to make a vision become a reality, the scientists have found that minds alone are not enough. Physical stamina and intellects must wittingly form an insoluble partnership. The frailty of the human body had for the first time in history of mankind become of paramount concern in the overall field of science itself. Now, this partnership is not the product of meaningless convenience, or the relationship usually associated between work and play; it is truthfully the product of centuries of progress. To those who are our neighbors, Western means education. We here in Bowling Green, and in surrounding environs, know that Western is not only education; it is life itself.

This building is symbolic of our modern space age. The building itself is symbolic of the A-plus-A requirements of our time? It is befitting that the academic-athletic program of Western be centered in the dramatic architecture of this great structure. The Board of Regents takes great pride, along with the entire school, in this dedication. We are indeed most appreciative of the support of all of you and of your enthusiasm. Thank you.

Western Choir--"Alleluia".....Thompson

Dr. Thompson:

I would like to express appreciation to this fine choir under the direction of Mr. Pauli. We will hear from them again tonight in the mass number which will be one of the features of the evening program.

I present to you now, Dr. Raymond Cravens, Dean of the College. I always present Dr. Cravens with great pride, because I share the opinion of many others, that he is one of the very best in the country, and it will be his honor to introduce our speaker of the occasion. Dr. Cravens.

Dr. Raymond L. Cravens:

Dr. Thompson, distinguished stage guests, members of the Board of Regents, faculty and staff, student body, ladies and gentlemen: Western Kentucky State College is indeed honored today to have as its principal speaker for this dedicatory program, Kentucky's first citizen, a man who is assured of historical recognition as one of Kentucky's greatest Governors. During his administration, our State Government not only has been dedicated to the building of a greater Kentucky; his has been a government which literally has been taken to the people of Kentucky. Time does not permit today the enumeration of his many achievements and recognitions. Permit me to observe, however, that during his tenure in office, first things have been given paramount emphasis.

The building which we dedicate here today is a symbol of first priority which our speaker has placed upon the advancement of Kentucky education--at all of its many levels.

This emphasis has been the first crusade of our Governor, not only because of the importance of education to the development of a greater Kentucky but, fundamentally, because of his belief that education is the basis of democracy. In introducing our speaker of the afternoon, I know that you will want to join me in an expression of appreciation for his leadership, and for this opportunity again to welcome him to Western as our honored guest. Ladies and gentlemen, the Governor of Kentucky, the Honorable Bert Combs. Governor Combs.

Governor Bert Combs:

Dr. Cravens, President Thompson, my fellow Kentuckians, and distinguished visitors: During the last three years and a lot of months, I have dedicated everything from a sawmill to a store room, and I am glad that on this day, the last dedication ceremony in which I will participate, we are dedicating the most spectacular, the most beautiful, and, I think, the biggest facility that I have seen dedicated in Kentucky in the last four years. I came down here with Wendell Butler, who, many of you know, is a graduate of this school. He has recently been elected as Commissioner of Agriculture, and he is trying to talk like a farmer. For instance, when we were looking in the bulletin about this structure and about the size of it, he said, "Well, it sure would hold a lot of corn." I agreed.

Of course, it is the finest facility of this nature that has been constructed in Kentucky, and I have an idea anywhere

else, in a great many years. I like to think that Kentucky is coming of age. I like to think it has grown up from the knee breeches of adolescence to the long pants of progressive adulthood. Nowhere is that fact more evident than on the campus of Western Kentucky State College and in the event we are celebrating today--that is, the dedication of this spectacular facility.

I think it is most fitting that the E. A. Diddle Arena will be dedicated to the memory and as recognition of Coach Ed Diddle, I heard some people talking about Coach Diddle many years ago, even before I knew him, and they were wondering what it was that made him tick. One of them said, "Well, I just can't understand it. He doesn't look like much, he says the wrong things, he does the wrong things, all of his methods are unorthodox, but still he is the most winning coach in America." Later I discovered what I think must make him tick. I discovered that Mrs. Diddle is part Combs. We have run our family trees back, and we are distant cousins. In my judgment, the thing that makes Coach Diddle tick best is Louise Combs Diddle. But this is, Coach, a great monument to a man who has dedicated so many years of his life to helping the youth of this area of Kentucky--in fact all of Kentucky--to realize the great potential of which it is capable.

The College, I think, is a spectacular example of the progress which Kentucky is achieving. It is an example of the acceleration and development which Kentucky has experienced in many fields. Let me give you some very brief figures. During the last eight years the enrollment of this College has grown from 1,600 to 5,900, in round figures. You have constructed almost twelve million dollars worth of buildings since 1956. Your budget has increased from about a million and a half dollars to more than three million dollars, and I say that is a good investment in the youth of Kentucky. I make no apologies. I make no apology in asking the people of Kentucky to make the necessary sacrifices that we can realize the great potential in the youth to which Coach Diddle has dedicated his life. And, to the great credit of the people of Kentucky, I am proud, as I think you are proud, that they have willingly accepted those sacrifices; and every survey and every expression of public opinion taken in this state in the last ten years shows that education--education of your children and mine--is the thing closest to the hearts of Kentucky people. That is the reason I know, beyond all doubt, that Kentucky is on its way to becoming a great and a modern state, to assuming its proper position of leadership in the age of space.

It is also a great pleasure to me to participate in this dedication with those responsible for the remarkable

development of this College. Dr. Thompson, the president, has paralleled the intensive growth of the institution, with your enlightened Board of Regents, great faculty, dedicated alumni, and, I think as important as anything else, friends of Western Kentucky.

Without detracting from the records of your former distinguished presidents, and you have had very illustrious presidents, let me make this brief observation about Kelly Thompson. You know, I've got three days to go, and I can say anything I want to, without anybody having much chance to retaliate. The Governor frequently finds it necessary to jab the chiefs of government agencies to keep them moving, and moving fast enough, but our problem with Kelly Thompson has just been the reverse. The problem has been to restrain him to a reasonable pace, but we haven't restrained him to a reasonable pace; consequently, this great institution has grown under his leadership, not only to one of the best in Kentucky, but to one of the outstanding institutions in America. We are most fortunate that Kelly Thompson came along at the right time, in order to provide the leadership necessary for this institution. A college that is imbued with the vitality of Western cannot be content with the status quo. It cannot stand still; it must be forever changing and growing --not only in size, but in the quality and in character. Its impact of force is felt not only by its students and its faculty

--it is felt by the community of Bowling Green, and by Warren County, and by all the communities throughout Kentucky. Dr. Thompson, a representative of this College, has a hand in most of the worthy causes for the development of this area in Kentucky: In the seminars and conferences on this campus; in showing students, administrators, and teachers how to disseminate learning more effectively through teaching, through research, and through service; in helping Western to carry out its obligations to the people of this region, of this state, and of this Nation. However, there are dangers as well as satisfactions in eminent achievements. Those are the dangers that thrive in complacency. No educational institution is so good that it cannot be better, as no individual, and no other unit of any kind, is so good that it cannot be better; and if satisfaction is accomplished to outweigh concern for what still remains to be done, then the institutions will be in danger of the times.

Western, like its sister State Colleges and the University, faces a great challenge, a challenge to be allied in the great population explosion which is all around us and will be for the next several years. It is an explosion which has produced a tidal wave of new college students in Kentucky, and everyone of those students is entitled to a college education if he has the ability and the desire to absorb it.

Presently we have 29,000 students in the state-supported institutions of Kentucky. This number is expected to increase to 40,000 in just two years. More and more state-supported schools are being called upon to quench this thirst for knowledge. Just seven years ago the state-supported schools accommodated 46 1/2 percent of Kentucky's college enrollment. This year 54 percent of Kentucky's college students are in state-supported institutions of learning. The trend will continue to increase, because it appears that the private colleges are going to be financially unable to meet all of the needs generated by the great increase in the number of students. This year, for instance, Kentucky high schools graduated 28,389 students. Next year, they are expected to graduate approximately 36,000. You and I, this College, this Board of Regents, and the other colleges across Kentucky have an obligation to see that young men and women have an opportunity to obtain a college education. We must command the support and enthusiasm of those who feel deeply about the future of the State and about the educational program of Kentucky. The children we are educating will live in an increasingly turbulent and demanding world. Conditions call for the best education that these young people can possibly be provided. Anything less than the best will not be nearly good enough. We must operate at peak performance; we must be willing to make sacrifices; we must be able to avoid the

temptation of excess leisure. In brief, we must be willing to work and to sacrifice, in order that we get the job done. Advancement of education in Kentucky is not merely a matter of justice to our children, or even to the underpaid teachers and the faculty members; the very strength and adequacy of our educational system, more than ever before, is an absolute necessity for survival as a free people amidst the furors and the conflicts of a nuclear age.

Since this is my last appearance as Governor before many of you, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your courtesy, your kindness, your tolerance, and your cooperation with me during the last four years. You people have been kinder and more tolerant and more understanding than I have had any right to expect, and if I have accomplished a little something as Governor, it is because I have had the cooperation and tolerance of people like you. The future of this state depends upon an enlightened leadership. I don't mean leadership by Governors, by Presidents, by Colleges, or by Boards of Regents. Leaders of that kind are necessary, of course, and we must have them; but I am talking about leadership from folks like you--people who have the energy and the ability and the intelligence to provide an enlightened leadership.

If I may paraphrase the words of Goldsmith, I believe it was. "Governors may come and Governors may

fade, a breath may make them as a breath has them, but an enlightened citizen is the country's pride, and if it should ever be destroyed, it will never be supplied." So I am asking you people, including those of you who don't hold any positions--and I won't hold one after three days--to provide the leadership and the support and the cooperation with people like Kelly Thompson and this Board of Regents and the next Governor and the next officials everywhere to make certain that we do provide a better Kentucky for our children.

In conclusion, it is my great pleasure and honor to participate in the dedication of this magnificent new facility to the greater development and the more extensive application of knowledge, to the physical development of our young people through athletics, and to the service of all of the people of Kentucky. Thank you very much.

Dr. Thompson:

The evening program will start promptly at 6:30, and we do hope that all of you will be in your seats, because we think that you will enjoy every moment of what is to occur tonight. May I call your attention to an announcement printed in the center spread in your program, which is an invitation for you to tour this building and inspect all of the various facilities which have been incorporated in it. We have guides, and we have hostesses in the classrooms, in the dressing rooms, and you are free to go anywhere in the building. As most of you know, it is made of two levels

--you are on the ground floor; the upper level is where the lobby is. It has a corridor encircling the entire building with classrooms, seminar rooms, and other facilities. The ground floor has the swimming pool on the left, an auxiliary gymnasium on the right, and many classrooms in between. We do hope that you will see this building.

In a few moments we will have the benediction. Before we do that, however, and if I may not be presumptuous, I would like to ask Governor Combs if he will come back to the microphone for a moment.

"Governor Combs, before you go back to Frankfort, and before you hand your responsibilities over to your successor, I know that the faculty of this institution, the students of this institution, and the alumni of this institution would want me to express to you a very personal kind of appreciation. You have been, as all of us know, one of education's greatest all-time friends, and within the broad scope of friendship, you have been one of Western's greatest all-time friends. You have listened to us patiently, you have counseled with us, you have helped us, and you have arranged for us to get more money. All of these things have made it possible for Western to feel that it was meeting its obligation in accepting the great challenge of 1963, of 1962, of 1961 and of 1960; and, on behalf of this entire College, before we close the program, I want you to know that I speak

for all of us at Western, in extending you this very warm and personal statement of appreciation. Thank you so much."

Choral Benediction-----Western Choir.....Lutkin

Dr. Thompson: We now stand adjourned.

Announcer: From the campus of Western Kentucky State College, you have been listening to the afternoon dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building and the E. A. Diddle Arena. We will be back again tonight at 6:30 from the Western campus and the E. A. Diddle Arena for the second part of the dedication program. The evening program will be followed by the Western-Vanderbilt game. Now I return you to our studios.

Dedication - Night Program

Radio Announcer:

The platform dignitaries have moved out onto the platform, led by Dr. Kelly Thompson, Western's President, and Lt. Gov. Wilson Wyatt. It was three years ago that Lieutenant Governor Wyatt, when attending a basketball game here in the old gym, made the remark that Western needed a new gym. The crowd that night had the seams bursting on the old building, and now three years later we are honored to have the Lieutenant Governor of the state of Kentucky on hand to witness the ceremonies at the E. A. Diddle Arena, and also to make some remarks. As we said, the platform guests have moved onto the platform, and the dedication ceremonies should be getting under way in just a minute with the National Anthem, followed by the flag raising ceremony. Then a commentary on the E. A. Diddle Arena will be made by Mr. Dero G. Downing, a member of Coach Diddle's basketball teams here in the forties, presently a dean of the College. We have a big night planned for you tonight, and right now, ladies and gentlemen, here is Dr. Thompson.

Dr. Kelly Thompson:

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the second phase of the dedication of the fabulous Academic Athletic Building and the E. A. Diddle Arena at Western Kentucky State College. We will officially begin this program

with a touch of flowers --for the flowers which grew at Western during the past football season, culminating in the championship of the Ohio Valley Conference and Western's entry into the 1963 Tangerine Bowl, following which we will have the flag raising ceremonies by the Pershing Rifle Color Guard and our National Anthem, with the always-welcome Mrs. Jeanette Rider Sallee returning to her Alma Mater as the soloist.

Radio Announcer:

Right now, ladies and gentlemen, after the remarks from President Kelly Thompson, the cheerleaders are bringing the flowers out onto the floor down to our left. The Western band is seated under the stands down to our left, while the cheerleaders are right now bringing the flowers out onto the floor, and will bring them up to the platform directly to our right as this complete dedication ceremony goes on here at Western Kentucky State College, on this beautiful dedication night. And now, the organist is playing "My Old Kentucky Home," as the lovely lassies, the freshmen, and the regular cheerleaders are bringing the flowers up onto the platform directly to our right. They are being placed down there, followed by the Western Kentucky football squad, as we are going to have a football presentation here tonight-- Joe Bugel and Harold Chambers, co-captains of the 1963 Topper team that will be playing in the Tangerine Bowl; and

we would like to report we will be on hand to bring you the Tangerine Bowl football game. Many of the same sponsors that have been with us throughout the season, football and basketball wise, will also be on hand at Vanderbilt for the basketball tournament; you can hear it all over WLBJ. And, right now, the mammoth trophy that was awarded to the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers at the close of this football season has been put on the table directly to our right, and those who played so well for Coach Nick Denes this year are now moving in and back of the entire 1963 football squad; and that applause you hear, ladies and gentlemen, is for the Tangernine Bowl-bound Toppers. We will wait just a minute now with the entire football squad lined on both sides of the Arena here at the E. A. Diddle Arena, as the color guard unit from the Western Kentucky State College Pershing Rifle Group moves out onto the floor, attired tonight very smartly in black boots, with the white trousers, white shirts, and gleaming helmets, down to our left, as they move out onto the floor. As Dr. Thompson has told you, Jeanette Rider Sallee will sing our National Anthem. This young lady has sung beautifully at many Western events in the past years. The unit is out on the floor right now, and we are getting ready for the procedure here at Western Kentucky State College. The unit from the Pershing Rifles at Western moves out for the flag-mounting ceremony here at the school tonight. Right now the standard has been lowered from the roof of this beautiful new gym. Ladies and gentlemen, as quickly as the flag

is mounted on the staff that will be pulled to the roof of the gym at the beautiful new E. A. Diddle Arena, Mrs. Sallee will sing our National Anthem. The unit from the ROTC is still mounting the flag directly over the big "W" in the center of this beautiful gym. And, now, the flag has been mounted on the staff. The color bearers will be moving back, and the band directly to our left, ladies and gentlemen, will be playing our National Anthem.

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| National Anthem..... | Flag Raising Ceremony |
| Soloist, Jeanette Rider Sallee | Pershing Rifle Color Guard |

Radio Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, the flag has been pulled to the roof of the gymnasium, and the Pershing Rifle Unit is starting to move off the floor; in just a minute we will return you to the platform directly at our right for comments on the E. A. Diddle Arena, by Mr. Dero G. Downing, Dean of Admissions of the College and also chairman of the Dedication Committee. The unit is moving off now down to our left, and in just a few seconds, Mr. Downing will be speaking to you from the platform. Also, on the platform now with Lt. Gov. Wilson Wyatt is Mr. E. A. Diddle, coach of the Western Kentucky State Hilltoppers. This coach is being honored here tonight by the naming of this beautiful arena, which will be known hereafter as the E. A. Diddle Arena. And, now, ladies and gentlemen, once again here is President Kelly Thompson.

Dr. Thompson:

I am confident that you noticed during the pause that followed the raising of our colors to the roof of this building that our flag was lowered to half mast. Ladies and gentlemen, the creation of this building, which puts Western figuratively on its knees in a feeling of gratitude to all who have helped bring it about, would have been impossible without the thinking and cooperation of many people in positions of responsibility throughout this Commonwealth. To identify all who have aided in this accomplishment would be impossible; but to each, I express Western's gratitude on behalf of all who love Western, and the expression is felt overwhelmingly. On behalf of the Board of Regents, who are on stage tonight; the alumni--scattered from the four corners of the world; the faculty--one of the finest in the country; and the grandest student body any college could wish for, I extend Western's deepest appreciation to every person who has aided in any manner in bringing this magnificent facility to reality. To those of you who are gathered here now, and to those who will be coming in during the next forty-five minutes, Western extends its warmest welcome. We are honored to be with you on this memorable occasion. It is our hope that you will come back often, that you will remember the "welcome mat of Western"--an invisible one--is out at all times for all who care; and that you will help us to plan and to utilize our time at Western so that this magnificent edifice will truly be used

for the building of a better and greater Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This afternoon we dedicated in a special ceremony with Governor Combs as the speaker the Academic-Athletic Building, which houses the E. A. Diddle Arena. They are one and the same, and yet they are different. This truly is an academic and an athletic building, and following the game tonight, I hope you will take advantage of touring the building to view all aspects of it. To tell you briefly something about the E. A. Diddle Arena, however, it is with great pride that I present to you Mr. Dero G. Downing, who has done a wonderful job as chairman of the Committee on Dedication. Mr. Downing.

Mr. Dero G. Downing:

President Thompson, Governor Wyatt, distinguished platform guests, ladies and gentlemen, Western friends: A commentary on the E. A. Diddle Arena could hardly be given without mentioning the great facility of which it is a vital part, or without recognizing briefly those who are most responsible for its existence.

The formal dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building began at 1:30 today, with recognitions, tributes, and words of praise directed to all those who have contributed to bringing it about. In all human affairs, there are efforts and there are results, and it has long been established that the strength of the effort is measured in the results. As this simple but basic principle of human progress is applied to this great

educational facility, we can only praise and admire the efforts which have brought it into being. As we recognize the outstanding efforts on the part of so many, and pay the tribute to each of them which he so richly deserves, it is most fitting that we pay a special tribute to the man who has provided the leadership in the growth and progress marking Western's development in recent years. Dr. Kelly Thompson has given direction to a sound program of longrange development which is bringing continuous improvements in Western's physical plant, with this building typifying the vision which he possesses. He is a man who seeks lofty goals, realizing that the greatest achievements were at first, and for a time, a dream, and that dreams are the seedlings of reality. His accomplishments give evidence to the fact that when one pictures something clearly in his mind and entirely gives himself to it, he can do seemingly impossible things. Endless time might be spent in numbering others who have in one manner or another contributed to the building of the Academic-Athletic Building and the E. A. Diddle Arena, but I shall direct your attention to only one other individual, and only to say that the entire commentary might well be devoted to Coach E. A. Diddle. Any expression at this time, however, would only detract from the half-time ceremonies which will be given completely to honoring the greatest coach in America.

The E. A. Diddle Arena is a commentary in itself. I would do an injustice to the least observing of those who are assembled here, if I failed to recognize that the Arena speaks for itself. Its majestic beauty, multi-purpose design, and stately grandeur are obvious to all. As we dedicate this Arena this evening, let us envision the many ways in which it will enrich the life of our College, our community, and this entire geographic area.

The building will be put to such use by the faculty and students that the greatest benefits possible will be derived as it contributes to the educational development and academic progress of Western Kentucky State College. It is a facility which will provide boundless cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities for all the people in the geographic area in which Western strives so hard to serve. Dramatic productions, lectures, and similar events will be held in this arena to be enjoyed by a greater number and in more pleasant surroundings than most of us dreamed possible a short time ago.

When we view the Vanderbilt-Western basketball game as the culminating event of this dedicatory program, we will surely agree that the E. A. Diddle Arena has few peers in the recreational advantages which it affords. Large numbers will frequently enjoy the comforts of this arena as the excellent sound system amplifies sensitive tones of beautiful music

for our pleasure. Symbolic of the intellectual stimulation and the asethetic delight which can be ours through the wise utilization of this Arena, we now call upon the Western Choir, under the direction of Mr. Ohm Pauli.

The Western Choir:

Mr. Downing: And hearlding of things to be, as the lives of so many are enriched through music, the Western Band now performs under the direction of Mr. Ed Knob.

The Western Band:

Mr. Downing: And finally--testimony to the accomplishments which can be ours through the cooperative efforts of all the forces within our community--the Western Choir joins the Bowling Green Community Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Thomas J. Stone.

Community Chorus--"Hallelujah".....Handel

Dr. Thompson: We are grateful for the many letters and telegrams which have come from across the country on this occasion of dedication. We have three or four here that I think are typical. I'd like to mention one from the Honorable William H. Natcher, one from Mr. Owen C. Hammonds, retiring member of the Board of Regents, and one from Mr. Ned Irish, president of Madison Square Garden in New York.

I have one, however, which I will read, having chosen it from all greetings that have come, and I am sure that you will enjoy it with me:

"On this notable occasion I offer you congratulations from Frances and me, and also from my future staff, and from fellow state officials.

This beautiful and exceptional building, devoted to both scholarship and athletics, is a credit to Western and all of Kentucky. It is evidence of the wisdom and vision of Western's leaders, as the devotion of Governor Combs and Lieutenant Governor Wyatt to the cause of education; and I offer special congratulations and personal best wishes to all at Western, and to him for whom your new Arena is named. May the Diddle towel and Western fly high." Signed Edward Breathitt

I would like to recognize as special guests for this occasion, Coach Fred Clayton and the members of the Caldwell County State Champion football team--one of our neighbors--who have set such a high record this year. They're in the audience, and we would like for them to stand. I am sure you know that any time one starts to recognize people, he does so at his own risk, and I am sure also that people are very generous; and since they are generous, I am going to present to you tonight the people on stage. I wish

that we had time to recognize each one of them individually, because each one does deserve it.

First, I would like to present to you the people who delved into the recesses of their imagination and research and came up with this magnificent edifice. The two young architects, who, in my opinion, have created on this ground one of their greatest monuments: Mr. Ben Johnson of Owensboro, and Mr. Frank Cain of Bowling Green. Will you stand?

I present to you the Commissioner of Finance, who has been of invaluable help to Western and to all who have worked on this building in carrying out the very difficult and complicated duties for which he is responsible--a friend and an expert combined, Mr. David H. Pritchett, Commissioner of Finance in the state of Kentucky. I would like to present to you his chief assistants, Mr. W. T. McConnell, chief of the Engineering Staff of the state of Kentucky, whose help has been invaluable, and Mr. Brucker Miller, who has been the Frankfort representative here working directly with us and who has done such a magnificent job.

I present now Mr. Carl Hancock, of the Engineering Staff, Mr. LeRoy Murphy, of the Engineering Staff, Mr. Alex Twaryonas, of the Engineering Staff, Mr. Milton Holloday, of the Engineering Staff, Mr. C. M. Tabor of Purchases,

and Mr. Emerson Beauchamp, Commissioner of Agriculture. Working with the architects, of course, and of the greatest importance are the engineers. With us tonight are both the structural and the mechanical engineers: Mr. John R. Wilkie, Mr. C. W. Batey, Mr. Charles D. Wade, and Mr. Thomas W. Waldron, Jr.

Mr. S. J. Clark, president of the Clark Construction Company of Owensboro, and his vice-president and construction superintendent, Mr. G. Von Anderson. They built the building!

Representing the city of Bowling Green and Warren County on stage tonight are Mayor R. D. Graham, Mayor-Elect James Topmiller, and Judge Basil Griffin. Members of the Building Committee, to whom the President owes undying thanks for the countless hours which they sat in conference, Mr. L. T. Smith, chairman, Mr. Dero Downing, Mr. Robert Cochran, Mr. Owen Lawson, Dr. Thomas J. Stone, Dr. Raymond L. Cravens, Dr. Paul G. Hatcher, Lt. Col. Grover C. Smith, Mr. Charles A. Keown, Mr. Ted Hornback, Mr. Nick Denes, Dr. Russell Miller, and Mr. E. A. Diddle. Won't you stand?

I regret that the Chairman of the Board of Regents had to return with Governor Combs and could not be here, but we have the other six members of the Board, and I present them to you tonight on this memorable occasion with the greatest

pride, because to my knowledge, they constitute one of the finest Boards in the United States. Regent Hugh Poland of Guthrie, Regent Douglas Keen of Scottsville, Regent Bemis Lawrence of Louisville, Regent Gerald Edds of Calhoun, Regent J. T. Gilbert of Bowling Green, and Regent Maxey B. Harlin of Bowling Green.

Ladies and gentlemen, some of you I know-many of you-were present on January 6, 1960, when a special greeting in connection with a basketball game was given by Lt. Gov. Wilson Wyatt. You may already understand then why the "Greetings" is opposite the speaker's name tonight. It was put there deliberately, because on that occasion he was asked to give a short greeting to that mass of humanity which filled every inch of space in the old gym. Somehow he lit a fire that night--he lit a fire that burned brighter as the days went by. You will remember that he said he felt that Western needed a new gym, and that he was going to hurry back to Frankfort and talk to Governor Combs to see whether he couldn't help us get one, and it seemed that the roof on that old building rose eighteen inches from its wall bearings as deafening applause followed. He really started the ball rolling. He is a busy man! He has many things to do this week and next, but there never has been any doubt about his being here. He has come with great effort, because I know that he was involved, He has come to give us another greeting, and

as I present him to you, I would like to see you stand and imitate what you did on January 6, 1960, when he extended that other greeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, Lt. Gov. Wilson Wyatt.

Governor Wilson Wyatt:

Dr. Kelly Thompson, Coach Ed Diddle, and friends of Western: This is a grand and glorious evening and a grand and glorious Diddle Arena. The Lord has given even special recognition for today, by smiling on all of us with a spring-time, sunshiny day and a spring-time night. I remember very well what our friend, Kelly Thompson, was talking about--as some of you will--that night four years ago, lacking just one month, when there was that momentous occasion in the former gymnasium to celebrate Coach Diddle's 700th victory. The Hilltoppers, typical of what they always do for their great chief and their great coach, before the evening could get to the point where he could celebrate his 700th victory, had already achieved the 701st victory. I remember so well the session of the Legislature was going forward--we were planning the program that has now been completed in these four years--and I left Frankfort for Bowling Green at the end of the day with Dave Francis and Mack Sisk.

We got into the plane, and we had a basketball which had been autographed by every member of the Legislature. We also had a proclamation from the Governor proclaiming

Diddle Day throughout the state of Kentucky. As I looked around that gymnasium when I got up to speak and saw some 5,000 people packed and jammed, with youngsters' legs dangling from the balcony, I said, as I looked around, "I think the message you want me to take back to Frankfort is that Western wants and needs and deserves a new gym." Well, I have heard enthusiasm in Madison Square Garden, I have heard enthusiastic responses to speeches at presidential conventions, but I never have heard such stomping, such whistling, such yelling, such applauding, in all my life. And as I left that evening, Kelly Thompson said to me, Coach Diddle said to me, and everybody I ran into said to me, "Of course, you realize what you did tonight--you promised us a new gym."

The next morning I met at Frankfort with a friend of mine who was here with you as a friend this afternoon--a man by the name of Bert Combs and some of the budget people. I said, "You know, I love Kelly and Sarah Thompson." They said, "Sure, so do we all; they are great educators, wonderful people." I said, "You know, I love Coach Ed Diddle; he is a great friend of all of us in Kentucky, and the greatest coach we know." They said, "Sure, that's true, everybody knows that. Now, what are we meeting about?" Well, I said, "You know, I love Western; I love those Hill-toppers. Now I am not a member of the 'W' Club, but my

initials are W.W.W., and I feel almost as though I were. " They said, "Sure, that's fine," and I said, "I love Bowling Green." They said, "That's wonderful, but what are we meeting about?"

Well, I said, "It's a long story, but something happened last night in Bowling Green, and I just about promised that we were going to do everything we could to help to get a new gymnasium built."

If all of you are now enjoying the beauty, the majesty, the utility, the symbol of the union of the academic with the athletic, if all of you are enjoying a great living memorial to a great man, if all of you are enjoying a building that is going to be the envy of every college and university in the United States, just think how much more I am enjoying it, because if it had not been built, I could never have returned.

You know, when I look at the picture in the paper, and in the program, of the Little Red Barn, you see what a genius can do in some uninspiring quarters. It reminds me of the story that the Veep, Alben Barkley, used to tell about the man who had the clock that was so mixed up that nobody could look at it and tell what time it was. A friend said, "Why don't you do away with that clock? You can't possibly tell time by it." And the man said, "Yes, I can tell time by it very easily." And the fellow said, "How do you do it?" "Well," he said, "I just look at it, and when both hands are

on two and when it is striking four, I know it is six-thirty."

Well, it is a great pleasure to be here and see this building, and I was just saying to Kelly and to the Coach, that of all the dedications I have had the pleasure of attending, I think I am enjoying this one more than any other I have ever attended in all of my life. It's a thing of beauty, it's a thing of utility, it's dedicated to those great things President Kennedy stood for in the physical fitness program, and of which Coach Diddle has been a pre-eminent exponent all the years of his life. Joe Creason's column this morning in the Courier-Journal had one of the most beautiful stories I've ever read, and if you haven't seen it, I think you will want to get it and read it. What a wonderful thing that these two men are here on each side of the aisle of this platform--one as President of this great institution, and one as the revered Coach.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, it is a great pleasure for me to join with you in dedicating this, the most beautiful arena in all of America, to Coach Diddle, to the qualities of character, to the development of body and mind, to sportsmanship, and to greater scholastic achievements. The results of this building will be a greater Western and a greater Kentucky. Thank you very much.

Dr. Thompson:

Governor Wyatt, I wish that you would join me here again, if you will, at this microphone.

On behalf of the faculty of Western, the alumni and the student body, and the people of Bowling Green and Warren County, and all of this geographic area, I want personally to express to you a very deep and genuine appreciation. During your four years as Lieutenant Governor, you have helped us in every way that you could. You have been generous with your time, you have been willing with your physical efforts, and you have given us of your brain power. You have presented our cause, and carried our banner, as you have carried it for all worthy educational efforts in Kentucky; and I didn't want you to go back to Frankfort without your knowing that the people of this entire area, and Western Kentucky State College particularly, will always have in their hearts, not only a love for Wilson Wyatt, but the most profound feeling of appreciation for him. Thank you very much.

Mr. Downing said anything here could detract from what will take place at half-time, but again I am asking you to excuse me for being personal. I do not want this program to close without my having the privilege of saying that one of the greatest thrills that could come to me as President of Western is having this wonderful Arena carry the name of my friend for thirty-five years, one of the greatest coaches in America, E. A. Diddle.

Our band, our chorus, and our choir will complete the dedication of this building now with the singing of "God Bless

America." Won't you help us dedicate this building to a future of great academic and athletic progress by joining the band, the chorus, and the choir in "God Bless America?"

Immediately following, Mrs. Jeanette Rider Sallee will sing "College Heights," and will stand adjourned.

"God Bless America"--Band, Chorus, and Choir.....Irving Berlin

"College Heights"--Jeanette Rider Sallee.....Mary Frances Bradley

Half-time Ceremonies

Radio Announcer:

We are going to pick up the half-time ceremonies here at Western Kentucky State College in honor of Coach E. A. Diddle. Here is Bob Cochran, public relations director of Western Kentucky State College.

Mr. Robert Cochran:

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this half-time ceremony being conducted by the members of Western's "W" Club, made up of those men who played athletics on the Hilltop and earned the Western "W". At this time the members of the "W" Club are moving onto the floor for our program. I know you recognize many of the men who have brought fame and glory to the Hilltop over the years. It is indeed inspiring to see these Hilltoppers back with us tonight to honor one of the greatest coaches ever to appear on the athletic scene in America. And, now, ladies and gentlemen, that nationally known Coach we all love and respect, Coach Edgar Allen Diddle.

(Applause as Coach Diddle enters floor, is carried around the floor in the golf cart, and finally goes to a point where a red carpet starts near the scorer's table. Mr. and Mrs. Diddle are then escorted to the center of the floor. Applause. Mrs. Diddle is presented with bouquet of red roses.)

Mr. Cochran:

Six of Coach Diddle's old and dear friends have commissioned Mr. Claire V. Fry to do a portrait of Coach Diddle. At this time, President Thompson, on behalf of these friends of

Coach Diddle, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present this portrait to you for Western. (Portrait is unveiled.)

Dr. Thompson:

On behalf of Western Kentucky State College, it is a genuine pleasure for me to accept from the fans of Bowling Green this portrait of one of the greatest coaches of all time.

Mr. Cochran:

Mr. Ronnie Clark, president of the "W" Club for 1963, at this time would like to make a presentation to you, Coach Diddle.

Mr. Ronnie Clark:

Coach Diddle, on behalf of these great athletes who surround you tonight, it is my pleasure, and indeed one of the greatest pleasures of my life, to present to you this plaque which reads: "Coach E. A. Diddle, Western Kentucky State College, presented by the Western 'W' Club in commemoration of the dedication of the E. A. Diddle Arena, December 7, 1963."

Mr. Cochran:

We have another small item for you, Coach Diddle. This comes from your friends and fans everywhere. To make this presentation, Mr. William "Red" McCrocklin, your first All-American basketball player, has returned to the campus.

Mr. William McCrocklin:

Coach, it is a well-known axiom of industry that when anything of importance occurs, it always occurs in sequences, and, usually, of three things. For example, young men indulge

in wine, women, and song. When you get married, it's honor, love, and obey. Our flag, Coach, has three colors. And even our government has three divisions. So, it is only fitting, it seems to me, that this evening on this tremendous occasion we again have three things: the finest Coach in the country, the finest Arena in the country, and the finest Car in the country. Mr. Diddle, on behalf of the 'W' Club, and the many thousands of friends you have, it's a really sincere pleasure to present you the keys to this car.

Coach E. A. Diddle

Thank you! Thank you!

Mr. Cochran:

Coach Diddle, I know that you have something to say to this huge crowd gathered here to celebrate the dedication of this magnificent Arena named in your honor. So, the mike is yours for as long as you want it.

Mr. Diddle:

Thank you, Bob, Governor Wyatt, President Thompson. It has been my pleasure to serve under all three presidents of this institution--Dr. H. H. Cherry, Dr. Paul Garrett, and Kelly Thompson. He is still Kelly to me; you can call him Doctor if you want to, but he is still Kelly to me. They were all great men. Dr. Cherry had a vision of this whole thing. Dr. Thompson, or Kelly, and President Garrett did a terrific job, and Thompson, our president, is doing a terrific job at the present time. They were three great presidents, and we should be proud of them.

I should like to thank the faculty for the many favors that they have done for me and for the boys. I should like to thank the greatest student body in America for the backing that they have given to me over these years. I should like to thank the "W" Club for all the help, for all the loyalty, and thanks again to all of you, and thanks again "W" Club for coming.

I should like to thank the citizens of Bowling Green, Warren County, and all the adjoining counties, and I should like to thank the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the backing and the help that they have given to us and our ball clubs. I should like to thank my friends all over America and all over Kentucky, for the loyalty and help that they have given to me. If I had it to do over, I would do it again, because I have been with the best people in America. Thank you.

Mr. Cochran:

At this time I would like to call on Mr. Ronnie Clark, president of the "W" Club.

Mr. Clark:

President Thompson, Governor Wyatt, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and last, but not least, the fine body of athletes--the "W" Club. You have undoubtedly witnessed the greatest moment of your and my lifetime--the honoring of the greatest coach in America. Coach Diddle, this automobile that you have received, the portrait that was

presented to the College, the plaque presented to you from the "W" Club, and the dedication of this gigantic Arena are only mere tokens of our love, our respect, and our admiration for you. For you have given not only of your time and the great talent that you have to handle boys; you have given your life, Coach, to Western Kentucky State College, to basketball, and to the youth of our great country. On behalf of the athletes whom you see on the floor and of many more who have since passed on, we wish you, Coach Diddle, the best of Luck, the best of Health, and may God Bless you wherever you go and in whatever you do.

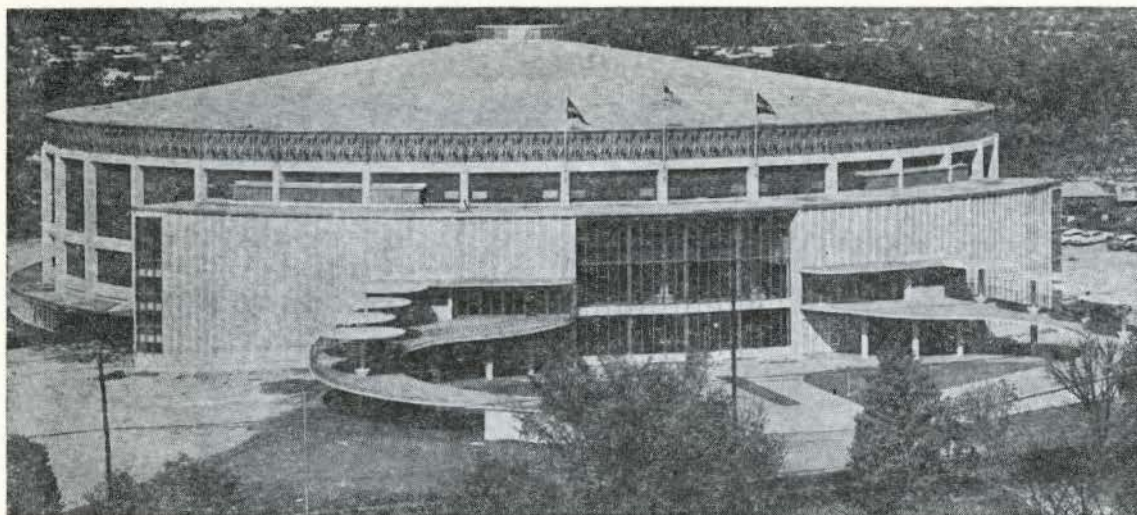
Mr. Cochran:

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes this portion of our program.

WKSC
E. A. Diddle
Arena

DEDICATION

Dec. 7, 1963



ACADEMIC-ATHLETIC BUILDING
AND
E. A. DIDDLE ARENA
WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Sec. 105 Row J Seat 1</p> | <p>★ DEDICATION ★ ACADEMIC-ATHLETIC BUILDING and E. A. DIDDLE ARENA WESTERN KENTUCKY vs. VANDERBILT</p>  <p>DEC. 7 1963 8:15 P. M.</p>  | <p>Sec. 105 Row J Seat 1</p> |
| <p>WESTERN KENTUCKY vs. VANDERBILT Dec. 7, 1963</p> <p>Est. Pr. 2.91 St. Tax .09 TOTAL \$3.00 Ramp 2</p> | <p>WESTERN KENTUCKY vs. VANDERBILT Dec. 7, 1963</p> <p>Est. Pr. 2.91 St. Tax .09 TOTAL \$3.00 Ramp 2</p> | |

THE BOARD OF REGENTS, THE PRESIDENT,
THE FACULTY AND STAFF

and

THE STUDENT BODY

of

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

Request the Honor of Your Presence

at

THE DEDICATION OF THE ACADEMIC-ATHLETIC BUILDING

Saturday Afternoon, December Seventh

at one-thirty o'clock, Central Standard Time

Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-three

and

at

THE DEDICATION OF THE E. A. DIDDLE ARENA

Saturday Evening, December Seventh

at six-thirty o'clock, Central Standard Time

Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-three

Open House from three o'clock until five o'clock

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Dedicatory Address
THE HONORABLE BERT COMBS
Governor of Kentucky

President's Dinner

Honoring Distinguished Guests on the Occasion of
the Dedication of
Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena



Western Kentucky State College

Paul L. Garrett Student Center

Bowling Green, Kentucky

December 7, 1963

Five o'clock

Menu

Shrimp and Cocktail Sauce

Relish Tray

Baked Ham
with Raisin Sauce

Sliced Turkey

Marshmallow Potatoes

Peas and Mushrooms

French Rolls

Congeaed Fruit Salad

Coffee — Tea — Milk

Chess Pie

Program

Theme.....“Howdy” and Welcome

Toastmaster None

Invocation.....Each, His Own

Greetings.....In the Air

Preliminary RemarksNone

Introduction of Speaker.....None

Principal Address.....None

Concluding Remarks.....None

Adjournment.....As You Desire

(Dedication ceremonies will be resumed promptly at
6:30 o'clock, E. A. Diddle Arena)

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

November 27, 1963

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

We are planning a buffet dinner for a few special guests on the occasion of the dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena on December 7. I want to extend to you a most cordial invitation to be present that we may be honored by breaking bread with you.

The informal dinner will be held in the Paul L. Garrett Student Center. We will assemble in the main lounge. It is hoped that you can be present at 4:30 o'clock, CST, so that we may have a short social period prior to the 5:00 o'clock dinner.

I am enclosing a self-addressed card for your convenience.

R. S. V. P.

Sincerely yours,

Kelly Thompson
President

KT/gb

Encl.

FRANKLIN BUILDERS SUPPLY CO.

INCORPORATED

A Good Place to Buy Building Materials



612 TENTH AVENUE, NORTH
NASHVILLE 1, TENNESSEE

December 13, 1963

Mr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

I wanted to write you and tell you what a delightful afternoon Mrs. Rodes and I had visiting on the campus of Western Kentucky College with so many of your friends.

The Academic Athletic Building is a spectacular building and I am so happy that your college has it. Even more spectacular and impressive are the number of friends which you have. It is always so pleasant to be with your good friends.

Kelly, I told Mrs. Thompson that I envied you in that you are building such a monument that will last so long. Not only in the buildings which you are putting on the campus but in the education and fine job that you are doing for so many young people. Every one does not have the opportunity of doing what you are doing so successfully.

Again thanking you for inviting us to break bread with you and looking forward to seeing you in the near future, I am

Yours very truly,

A. B. Rodes

ABR/gs

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
FRANKFORT

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER

December 9, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Thompson:

The dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building stands out in my mind as one of the most skillfully organized and pleasingly executed special events it has ever been my pleasure to witness. I have chosen these words carefully, and I know that you, as an exponent of good public relations, will recognize precisely what I mean. To my mind, every single detail was executed in a manner appropriate to the occasion, blending harmoniously to the entire enjoyment of the crowd.

Anne joins with me in extending thanks to you and Mrs. Thompson for the warm hospitality and Anne certainly concurs in every detail with what I have said above.

As a matter of fact, the next time there is a dedication at Western Kentucky State College I will gladly pay double the price of admission.

With warmest regards,



Don Armstrong



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
FRANKFORT

JOHN B. BRECKINRIDGE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

WALTER C. HERDMAN
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 11, 1963

D r. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

Just a word or two to express to you my deep appreciation for the opportunity afforded my wife and me to be present at the dedication of the new Academic-Athletic Building last Saturday afternoon and evening. It was a most impressive, enjoyable and heart warming affair, well planned and executed. To me it expressed so well the traditional spirit of Western. You and all those participating are to be congratulated.

Sincerely,



LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY

UNION STATION • NASHVILLE 3, TENNESSEE • TELEPHONE ALpine 4-0565

HARVEY T. SCHNEIDER
DISTRICT PASSENGER AGENT

December 11, 1963

File: One

My dear Kelly:

These few lines are to express the appreciation of Mrs. Schneider and myself for your kind invitation, with complimentary tickets, to participate in the GREAT DAY at Western.

Everything went like clock work and the efficient way, which is your usual self, in which you handled it all was most notable. I had previously mentioned to Mrs. Schneider to observe how it would be set up and move smoothly and after it was all over she said that she could understand what prompted my suggestion. The food was excellent, the fellowship the same way, and although the ball game didn't come out as the Western folks would have liked it to, it was a clean exhibition of true sportsmanship and a credit to Mr. E. A. Diddle, who I know was thrilled beyond expectation.

I hope you will accept these humble words of appreciation and remember to call on me whenever I can be of assistance.

Wishing you the best for the coming Christmas and New Year Season, I remain

Sincerely,

HTS:L

cc: Mr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

JOE D. GILI, Principal
ORVILLE HODSON, Athletic Director
JOHN HUBBARD, Guidance Counselor

WEST WASHINGTON SENATORS
Red — Blue — White
Washington and Lee Swing

WEST WASHINGTON SCHOOLS

CAMPBELLSBURG, INDIANA

Dec. 13, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, Pres.
Western Ky. State College
Bowling Green, Ky.

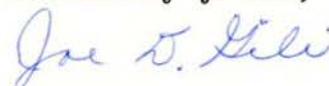
Dear Prs. Thompson:

We enjoyed the dedication of the new gym, game and visits with old friends.

I wished that the opportunity would have presented it self to talk with you again.

Joanna and I certainly are proud of you, Pres. Thompson, Mr. Diddle and Western. You have certainly made great strides in the few years you have been the Pres. of the College. May the many years to follow be as propserous and happy for you, your family and Western.

Sincerely yours,



Joe D. Gili

JDG:kw



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

MURRAY, KENTUCKY

December 9, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

I wish to congratulate you on the superior dedicatory program of the Academic-Athletic Building and E.A. Diddle Arena, December 7, 1963. I thought everything went off to perfection, and you certainly did a very superior job of presiding.

You have a magnificent building and Marvin Wrather and I sincerely appreciate the invitation to attend the dedication. I regret that we did not get to see you after the dedication as it was necessary for us to leave in order to return to Murray by 8:00 p.m.

With kindest personal regards to you and the members of your staff,

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. W. Ordway".

P. W. Ordway
Business Manager

PWO:sn

CONCORD



COLLEGE

ATHENS, WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

December 12, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Ky State College
Bowling Green, Ky

Dear President Thompson:

We were very delighted to be on the Western campus for the Dedication exercises. We saw you from a distance several times but never got close enough to talk with you. The occasion was one of dignity but carried on in true Western tradition of making every one feel that they were a part of the event.

The Academic-Athletic building is one of beauty and utility. Mr. Diddle paused to reflect many great moments in his life, but I know that the naming of the arena for him must have been his greatest thrill. Kelly, I want to say that Mr. Diddle made it possible for me to attend college and I have never forgotten the favor. Western gave to me the impetus to go on, and in a way I owe everything I have to Western Kentucky.

I want to thank you for turning over my letter to Mr. L.T. Smith. I did not get it in time for our trip to Western but will write to L.T. later on concerning the Arena dimensions, etc.

Sallie and I want to thank you again for the invitation. We want to extend the Holiday greetings to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Joe
Joseph Friedl

DIBRELL - BURFORD, INC.

LEAF TOBACCO

101 HOPE STREET

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

P. O. BOX 928

December 11, 1963

E. Kelley Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelley:

Norine and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the lovely dinner and the tickets for the dedication ceremony for the new Atheletic Academic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena.

You are to be congratulated on this fine facility for Western. It will be a great boost for the college and our whole State.

With warm personal regards and best wishes.

Very truly yours,



Herbert J. Smith

HJS:cnj



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Division of Purchases
Department of Finance
Frankfort

December 11, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Ky. State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Thompson:

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your gracious hospitality at the dedication program Saturday. Mrs. Tabor and I spent a very enjoyable afternoon and evening (in spite of my being in the audience instead of on stage at the evening program).

We know that you must be extremely proud of your new field house. It is quite an accomplishment.

Thank you again for your kind invitation.

Very truly yours,

CMT
C. M. Tabor
Associate Director

CMT:vkc

FRED CLAYTON - ATH. DIR.
FOOTBALL - FRED CLAYTON
BASKETBALL - GEO. PERRY

CALDWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL - WILLIAM F. BROWN
TRACK - CHARLEY AKERS
BASEBALL - AL GIORDANO
JH COACH - CHARLES DAVIS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

PRINCETON, KY. PHONE EM 5-5615

December 9, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Thompson

On behalf of the Caldwell County Football Team and members of my coaching staff, I would like to express deep appreciation for inviting us to the dedication ceremony.

As alumnus we are real proud of the progress made in the last few years, since you have become President.

Our squad and coaches were real impressed with the new academic athletic building.

Thanks again for the invitation. We would like to have you visit us when you have the time.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Clayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fred Clayton
Football Coach

Bowling Green Public Schools

OFFICERS

HOUSTON M. KIRBY, PRESIDENT
RAY FULLER, VICE-PRESIDENT
W. R. McNEILL, SECRETARY
MRS. HELEN KEREIAKES, TREASURER

W. R. McNEILL, SUPERINTENDENT

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

December 11, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Thompson:

Congratulations to you and associates at Western Kentucky State College upon the achievement of such magnitude when you dedicated the new Athletic-Academic Building on the Western Campus recently.

All the members of the Bowling Green City School Board join me in extending to you and everyone at Western our very best wishes upon this great attainment.

Dr. Thompson, each member of the Board asked me to convey to you their sincere thanks and appreciation for your kindness in remembering all of us in giving us invitations and tickets to the basketball game at the dedication of the E. A. Diddle Arena.

All of us wish for you and your associates the very greatest success in the future.

Best wishes and kindest personal regards.

Cordially,



W. R. McNeill, Superintendent
Bowling Green City Schools



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TENTH AND CENTER STREET — PHONE VI 2-5604

DRY CLEANING A SPECIALTY

COMPLETE LAUNDRY SERVICE

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

December 10, 1963.

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green
Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

I have heard nothing but wonderful comments on the Dedication Ceremonies and the Diddle Arena.

Jud Collins and "Slick" Welch said they had not seen anything like it in the nation. I heard on a Radio Network the comment that the outstanding sports event in the nation for the weekend was the dedication of the new arena.

It was no doubt the biggest day in the history of Bowling Green.

I wish I knew how to congratulate you. Even though we lost, I suggest we keep Coach Diddle and give him another change. After all he makes a good impression riding around in that shining new car.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Houston".

Houston Griffin

HG:sj

Q. M. SMITH
ROUTE 3 - BOX 356
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Dr. Kelly Thompson
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly: -

Your dedication program
for the E. A. Diddle Arena was a
most impressive synthesis of modern
education.

I have witnessed the "Miracle
of Western" during the entire career
of Uncle Ed. from two neighboring
Tennessee Colleges in continuous com-
petition during that time.

The face-making program Western
has made in its entirety has always
been an inspiration to all of us in
The Ohio Valley Conference Area.

Our congratulations and best
wishes for a continuation of your
program, for personal success and
happiness.

Thank you for inviting us

Dec. 9, 1963

Laura & Q. M. Smith

December 10, 1963

Dear Kelly:

The arena is magnificent; your hospitality outstanding; and the organization and procedure followed was excellent.

The brochure was appreciated. Your personal attention to our accommodations was delightful, and Sara was never more gracious.

I am dropping Mrs. Palmore a note to thank her for her courtesies. Wiz and I certainly appreciated the chance to be with you on the occasion.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,



Bob Patterson

THE CHEROKEE SECURITIES COMPANY

4106 HILLSBORO ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

HAROLD W. CLARK
PRESIDENT

December 11, 1963

Mr. Kelly Thompson,
President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

The dedication of your magnificent arena was certainly a fine affair and I congratulate you on a job well done. This was my first visit to the campus in some time and I must say it was a most impressive sight.

Best wishes for continued success and with kind regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

Cottar

GREEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

LUCILE GUTHRIE, SUPT.

GREENSBURG, KY.

Dr. Kelly Thompson
President, Western Ky. State College
Bowling Green, Ky.

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I just want to offer
you my congratulations for
your wonderful Academic-Athletic
Building at Western. I have never
seen one any more beautiful.

The dedication exercises
were really nice and I enjoyed
them thoroughly. Thank you
for inviting me.

yours truly,
Lucile Guthrie, Supt.
Green Co. Schools

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT INC.

720 seventeenth avenue, south • al 4-1411 • nashville, tennessee

December 10, 1963

Mr. Dero Downing
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Ky.

Dear Dero:

It was a great pleasure for me to be in Bowling Green Saturday and you honored me in asking me up to the dedication of the new Academic-Athletic Building. It's always a pleasure to be in Bowling Green.

December 7 will stand out as a red-letter day in the annals of Western Kentucky. It was an occasion for fun, a time for reunion, and a cause to celebrate. And you certainly had every reason to celebrate.

The building is not only beautiful but appears to be most serviceable and usable. It looks like a complete job and I congratulate all of you who had a part in the planning and execution. It is a great adjunct to the cultural, educational and recreational life of that great area.

To me it was not just the accomplishment of a goal you celebrated but the beginning of an era. It was only a pause to cheer those who had brought about a great accomplishment. I had a very definite feeling that to Western it was only a pause to draw new battle lines, unfurl it's flags and sound the charge. I am confident that all of you gave me good reason to feel that way. I know it did not exist in my imagination.

I am happy that I had a part in your fine hour of pride and thanksgiving. I acknowledge my gratefulness to you personally and ask that you extend my thanks and my congratulations to your President and to the members of your Committee. Mrs. Porter adds her regrets that she could not be present.

Please accept my best wishes for Western as she stands on the threshold of a new era of service to the nation.

Sincerely yours,

"Slim"

W. E. Porter

EASTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

RICHMOND, KENTUCKY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 10, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

I'm sure you must have been greatly pleased following Western's Day last Saturday. I want to thank you for a most pleasant and satisfying experience. I think you had a wonderful program, and I am sure everyone present must feel the same way. That was a great day in the life of Western.

Lois and I enjoyed every minute of the day from the time the program began until it ended late Saturday night. We talked about it so much on our way home Sunday. It was so nice of you to invite us to your buffet dinner. Both of us appreciate it so much and want to thank you for it.

I am sure that Mr. and Mrs. Diddle must have been quite pleased. It was a wonderful day for Coach. I know he will be proud of the beautiful basketball facility. I purposely say "basketball" because I know that is where his greatest interest lies.

You do have a wonderful building and I know all of you at Western must be proud of it. I am proud of it for you and look forward to enjoying it in the days ahead. I am always glad to have an opportunity to visit Western and certainly am always glad to see it move forward.

I hope you and Sarah will come to see us any time you can.

Very truly yours,


John L. Vickers
Executive Assistant

JLV/lm

The Citizen-Times

"Allen County's Leading Newspaper"

SCOTTSVILLE, KENTUCKY

December 9 19.8 3.

President Kelley Thompson.

Western Kentucky State College .

Bowling Green, Ky.

Dr. President Thompson:

I sure did have one big time at your find Gymnasium and Field House Saturday night. I met lots of fine newspaper men and women and they all said we have been expecting you all day.

You were sure nice to the Press Boys. I had fun. I have never in my life as a newspaper man which dates back to 1926 attended such a fine basket ball game and your party.

I shall tell Newspaper men and women the Nation over about your fine staff, basket ball team, and your excellent Press men who work so hard to make very one happy.

President Thompson I have told newspaper men and women that you could have run the Yankee Stadium in New York, City or Churchill Downs in Louisville. You are a borned Public Relations Man One Hundred Percent Plus.

Regards.

Allan R. Read.

407 East Maple Avenue.
Box. No. 97. Scottsville, Ky.



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STATE AT TENTH STREET

TELEPHONE VI 2-5611

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

42101

MAX B. HARLIN
1876-1944

ROBERT M. COLEMAN
JO T. ORENDORF
MAXEY B. HARLIN

HAROLD D. RICKETTS
ROBERT D. SIMMONS
WILLIAM J. PARKER

December 10, 1963


Dr. Kelly Thompson
President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

May I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you for the hospitality extended to me and my family during the dedication festivities.

I want to particularly thank you for the tickets extended to our guests, and I would appreciate it if you would extend my thanks to both Dero and to Miss Georgia.

Most sincerely,


Maxey B. Harlin

W E S T E R N K E N T U C K Y



C O M P A N Y

6 0 8 F R E D E R I C A S T R E E T · O W E N S B O R O , K E N T U C K Y

W. H. NEAL
VICE PRESIDENT
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

December 9, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly:

I want to reiterate my appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended to Ferry Anne and me this past weekend in Bowling Green.

The entire program was most impressive, and I want to extend again my congratulations on the completion of such a fine building.

You are truly a remarkable person, and I consider it a real honor to know you.

Sincerely,

WHN/ew

MERRILL W. SCHELL, M. D.
GENERAL & THORACIC SURGERY
DOCTORS BUILDING
1001 CENTER STREET
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

December 9, 1963

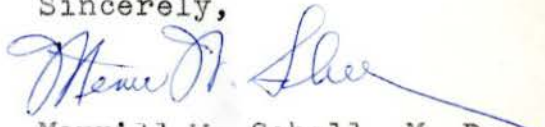
Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear President Thompson:

I am writing to congratulate you and your outstanding staff on the excellent program which I feel was carried out in such a manner as to reflect great credit on all who are or have been at Western. I have written Dero to thank him personally for his tremendous effort and I certainly want all who contributed to the program to know how the Alumni felt regarding this great day in the life of the College.

Finally, Evelyn and I would extend our greetings to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a happy and successful new year. As usual, if you need my support you have but to ask for it for I think you know what my feelings for the College and all those who work for it are.

Sincerely,


Merrill W. Schell, M. D.

MWS:jg

December 10, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson
President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

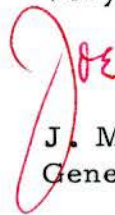
Dear Dr. Thompson:

I feel that I will not be able to compliment Bob Cochran enough for the excellent job that he did and the fine cooperation in making the telecasts go over so well.

The planning, co-ordinating the many activities, and checking the details, plus the most important factor of timing with real southern hospitality made this a great day for you, and we want to express our appreciation.

Our visitors from Indianapolis wanted us to personally thank you and Bob for the fine cooperation.

Very truly yours,



J. M. Walters
General Manager

JMW/kc

cc Bob Cochran

December 10, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson
President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Thompson:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for permission to telecast all the activities from the new E. A. Diddle Arena Saturday.

We have had many people say that television provided them the opportunity to see the parade at 9 a.m., the interview with Coach Diddle and team at 1 p.m., the dedication ceremonies at 1:30 p.m., the dedication ceremonies at 6:30 p.m., and of course, the climax, the game at 8 p.m.

I am sure that you are not only proud of the beautifully designed building, but also of such an excellent staff that you have. A wonderful day.

Sincerely,

J. M. Walters
General Manager

JMW/kc

cc Bob Cochran

December 10, 1963

Dr. Kelly Thompson
President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Thompson:

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much we appreciate the cooperation of Mr. Lawson and all the people in his department.

Without such cooperation, our engineers would have found it very difficult to have made the camera set up as they did and with a minimum of cable exposure.

Also, I was impressed with the speed and the system that the chairs and platform were moved between the ceremonies. I am sure you are proud to have such fine people in your organization.

Sincerely,

J. M. Walters
General Manager

JMW/kc

cc Owen Lawson

Our Sincere
Congratulations
to
MR. E. A. DIDDLE
and
DR. KELLY THOMPSON

For their outstanding leadership
and contribution to this com-
munity.

We feel these two men have
played a vital part to the
growth of our city and com-
munity.

R. C. Construction

R. H. Richardson J. H. Carver

THEO. A. SANFORD, COMMISSIONER

J. B. MANSFIELD, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Kentucky High School Athletic Association

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

P. O. Box 1173
December 9, 1963

Dear Kelly:

Just a note to thank you for including me in the festivities Saturday. Deal and I enjoyed every minute of it. Of course, we regretted that the score of the game was not different but I thought the team did real well. Vandy is going to win a lot more games this season.

The program was wonderful and the building defies description. Such a building should have a home like Western where it will be appreciated. Congratulations to you and your staff on this and all the other great work done there. The other two presidents were great people but you certainly do not have to live in their shadows.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Joe B. McCoy

LISLE BAKER, JR.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
& GENERAL MANAGER

BARRY BINGHAM, EDITOR & PUBLISHER

MARK ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The Courier-Journal THE LOUISVILLE TIMES

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

Dear Sarah and Kelly;

I couldn't let a day go by without telling both of you how much Evelyn and I enjoyed ourselves as your guests this last week-end.

The guest house was perfect. The dinner was delicious. The ceremonies were impressive and in very good taste, and our seats couldn't have been better.

Thanks a million. I hope my column was all right, and that the organ has been connected properly.

Uncle Ed looks ill, I am saddened to say. He is one of the nicest people I guess I'll ever know. If you could provide him with an lively young assistant (who might work up to a replacement later) you might prolong his life indefinitely.

Cordially,

Earl

JESSE T. FUNK, M. D., F. A. C. S.
528 EAST MAIN STREET
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

9 Dec 63

Dear Kelly,

I doubt if any other similar institution could or would provide a dedication with the good taste and effectiveness that Western has just done. You and your staff are to be congratulated. Maydell and I appreciate and will long remember our pride and pleasure in being our passive and interested part.

Sincerely
Jesse

THEO. A. SANFORD, COMMISSIONER

J. B. MANSFIELD, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Kentucky High School Athletic Association

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
Box 1173

December 13, 1963

Dear Kelly:

Thanks very much for inviting Nelle and me to the festivities which took place in Bowling Green last Saturday. We thought that everything was just about perfect.

Best regards,

Ted

TS:ja

P.S. Tell Dero that I put him at the head of the class for "carrying the message to Garcia."

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

12- 8- 63

Mr. Dero G. Downing
Dean of Admissions
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dero:

Please allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you on a job-well-done! As chairman of the dedication committee of such a gigantic program, you must have spent hours upon hours upon hours on the job. The smootheness of the entire day was a credit to you, Dr. Thompson, Mr. L.T., Owen, H.B., and the numerous others who worked under your leadership.

Let me thank you for including me as a member of one of several sub-committees on this gigantic occasion. As you might know, John Minton, our sub-committee chairman, functioned on this just as he does everything else, namely: G R E A T!

Again.... C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S!

You put on a tremendous job. As Mr. Diddle would say: " I bet those Horse Cave sausage eaters " were proud of what you did!

Cordially,

John A. Scarborough

P.S. I was so proud the following was stressed throughout the entire day:

THE GOODNESS, AS WELL AS THE GREATNESS, OF TWO OF
THE GREATEST MEN I'VE EVER KNOWN... DR. THOMPSON AND
MR. DIDDLE.

cc: President Thompson

CONCORD



COLLEGE

ATHENS, WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

December 12, 1963

Mr. Sero Downing
Registrar
Western Ky State College
Bowling Green, Ky
Dear Sero:

We want to thank you for sending us the tickets for the Dedication basketball game. We did not get to talk with you and President Kelly Thompson but we want you to know that we enjoyed being with you good folks.

The Academic - Athletic building is a beautiful structure and it is a tribute to Mr. Diddle and the Western family. We were very proud of what we saw at Western.

We are always looking forward to returning to the College and our friends.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph Friedl



the heart of the
textile industry



TELEPHONE CEdar 9-9025
Area Code 803

GREENVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

P. O. BOX 10185
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29603

January 11, 1964

Dr. Kelly Thompson,
President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Kelly,

I was quite thrilled upon viewing the dedication brochure of the E.A. Diddle Arena. It appears to be a most beautiful and functional edifice. It is certainly something that Western Kentucky has merited for many years.

I was glad to learn that the building honors "Uncle" Ed. Jean joins me in extending our sincerest wishes for the success of the Arena and Western Kentucky State College.

Please say hello to Sarah and "Uncle" Ed.

Cordially,

Herman J. Penn,
General Manager

HJP/pc

~~COMMISSIONERS OF THE SINKING FUND~~

Ad 0.7

MEMORANDUM

TO: _____

DATE: _____

FROM: _____

RE: _____

D. Kelly Thompson
Western State Bowling Green.

Looks for the book on Reddle
Athlete building. It was a most
deserved honor.

1 copy given to
D. Kelly



Congratulations

CTA74 BW

CT FKA084 PD=FRANKFORT KY 6 442P EST=

DR KELLY THOMPSON PRES=

WESTERN KY STATE COLLEGE BOWLING GREEN KY=

ON THIS NOTABLE OCCASION I OFFER YOU CONGRATULATIONS FROM FRANCES AND ME AND ALSO FROM MY FUTURE STAFF AND FROM FELLOW STATE OFFICIALS THIS BEAUTIFUL AND EXCEPTIONAL BUILDING DEVOTED TO BOTH SCHOLARSHIP AND ATHLETICS IS A CREDIT TO WESTERN AND ALL OF KENTUCKY. IT IS EVIDENCE OF THE WISDOM AND VISION OF WESTERN'S

B Y W E S T E R N U N I O N

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless the deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201 (4-60)

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

CTA07 SSA007

1963 DEC 6 AM 8 15

CT LVA008 NL PD=LOUISVILLE KY 5=

KELLY THOMPSON, PRES=

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE BOWLING GREEN KY=

SINCERELY REGRET SPECIAL STAFF MEETING WILL DENY ME THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING THE BOARD MEETING AND DEDICATION OF THE ACADEMIC ATHLETIC BUILDING AND E A DIDDLE ARENA. IT IS INDEED MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT CONFLICT OF SCHEDULES EXIST; HOWEVER, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONVEYING TO THE BOARD THIS MESSAGE: AM EXTENDING TO EACH MY PERSONAL GOOD WISHES. I KNOW THE DEDICATION WILL ERECT ANOTHER MILESTONE ON THE TRAIL-BLAZING PATH OF PROGRESS

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201 (4-60)

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

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1965 DEC 6 PM 4 24 (46).

LEADERS AS A DEVOTION OF GOVERNOR COMBS AND LT GOV WYATT
TO THE CAUSE OF EDUCATION I OFFER SPECIAL
CONGRATULATIONS AND PERSONAL BEST WISHES TO HIM FOR
WHOM YOUR NEW ARENA IS NAMED. MAY THE DIDDLE TOWEL
FLY HIGH, ~~IN THE NEW RED BARN~~

EDWARD T BREATHITT=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201 (4-60)

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

THAT IS ALWAYS TRAVELLED BY W.K.S.C. UNDER ITS
DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP W.K.S.C. HAS BUILT A RECORD OF
ACHIEVEMENT THAT HAS BECOME A SHINING SYMBOL. IT IS A
PLEASURE TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BOARD FOR THE
PAST FOUR YEARS AND AS I LEAVE I WISH CONTINUED SUCCESS
FOR THE BOARD, FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENT BODY. PLEASE
EXTEND TO COACH DIDDLE MY DEEPEST CONGRATULATIONS ON
THIS, HIS DAY=

OWEN C HAMMONS==.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



Congratulations

CTA59 BA363

B BZA059 CGN PD=BZ NEW YORK NY 6 321P EST=

KELLY THOMPSON PRESIDENT=

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE BOWLING GREEN KY=

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES. DISAPPOINTED THAT I
CANNOT BE WITH YOU FOR THE DEDIATION TOMORROW OF YOUR
NEW DIDDLE ARENA=

NED IRISH=



Congratulations

CT LXA104 PD=BEREA KY 7 1045A EST=

PRESIDENT KELLY THOMPSON=

WESTERN COLLEGE BOWLING GREEN KY=

THE WONDERFUL FRIENDSHIP OF TWO MEN HAS MADE THIS DAY
POSSIBLE MY CONGRATULATIONS=

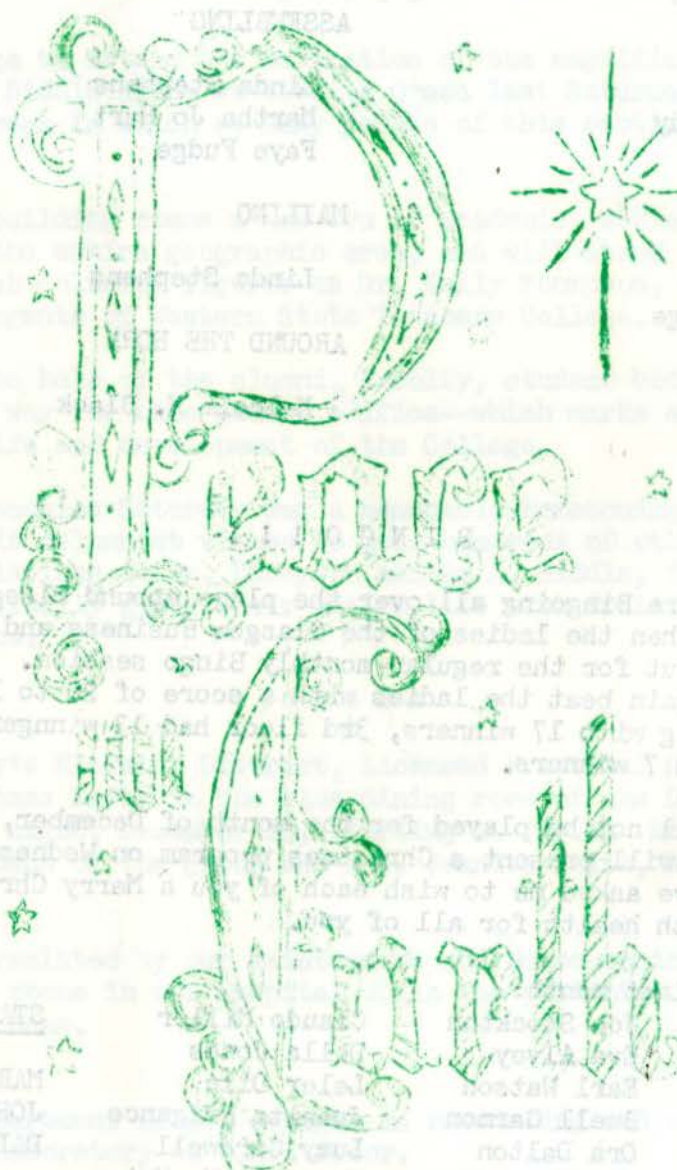
O H GUNKLER=

Marked Copy

THE SCOOP

December, 1963

District Six
State Tuberculosis Hospital
Glasgow, Kentucky



Thomas M. Layton, Executive Director, Frankfort, will present the pins and special awards at the luncheon program. In addition to eligible employees, other invited guests will include Mayor Lynn B. Mayfield, County Judge James E. Gillenwater, Circuit Judge-elect Cass Walden, and County Attorney Shelly Riherd, all of whom



EDITOR-----Betty R. Bailey
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-----Linda Stephens

REPORTERS:

SECOND FLOOR

All Patients

THIRD FLOOR

Velma Cassady
James Lyle

FOURTH FLOOR

Della Means
Kenneth Birge

TYPISTS

Linda Stephens
Martha Jo Hurt

ASSEMBLING

Linda Stephens
Martha Jo Hurt
Faye Fudge

MAILING

Linda Stephens

AROUND THE HORN

Malcolm H. Black

B I N G O ! ! !

People were Bingoing all over the place around Glasgow TB Hospital November 29, 1963 when the ladies of the Glasgow Business and Professional Woman's Club were out for the regular monthly Bingo session. We had 37 big Bingos. The men again beat the ladies with a score of 20 to 17. Fourth floor came on strong with 17 winners, 3rd floor had 13 winners, and 2nd floor came out with 7 winners.

Bingo will not be played for the month of December, instead the B & PW Club ladies will present a Christmas program on Wednesday night December 18. The ladies have asked me to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year filled with health for all of you.

Winners last month:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Martha Sue White | Joe Stockton |
| George Lawrence | Eva Alvey |
| James Lyle | Earl Watson |
| Henry Hatcher | Buell Garmon |
| Hazel Brown | Ora Dalton |
| Lowell Bruton | R. B. Goodhue |
| Luther Cravens | Elza Sheppard |
| Ray Decker | Callie Sadler |
| Jane Brown | Clay Anderson |
| Della Reynolds | James Cash |
| Clyde Willis | Pauline Bargour |
| Christine Hurt | Velma Cassady |
| Darrell Williams | Ida Duncan |

Claude Miller
Della Jones
Leler Dile
Juanita Brigance
Lucy Cardwell
Margaret VanMeter
Henry Simpson
COVER ALL WINNERS
Baxter Powell
Della Means
Della Reynolds
James Lyle

STAMP WINNERS

MARGARET VANMETER
JOHN WILL MCCLISTER
DALTON CLEAVINGER



and the world are richer for it.

His successor, President Lyndon B. Johnson, is a capable man with outstanding leadership qualities. A newspaper columnist once said of Johnson, "He's a good guy in a tough spot, and the rougher it gets the calmer he gets".

It was our privilege to attend the dedication of the magnificent Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena at Bowling Green last Saturday and share in the realization of a dream in which so many people of this section of Kentucky have participated.

The multi-purpose building opens a new era of academic, athletic, and cultural possibilities for the entire geographic area, and will stand as a monument of appreciation to such colorful figures as Dr. Kelly Thompson, Coach E. A. Diddle, and the Board of Regents of Western State Teachers College.

This group, with the help of the alumni, faculty, student body and friends of Western, paved the way for this modern edifice--which marks an extraordinary milestone in the life and development of the College.

The dedication ceremonies Saturday was a memorable homecoming event--long to be remembered, and this columnist wishes to join hundreds of other Kentuckians in extending congratulations to Dr. Thompson and Ed A. Diddle, friends of long standing, who have practically given their entire life with fruitful results to Western and its environments.

Members of Kentucky's Eleventh District, Licensed Practical Nurses, will hold their annual Christmas Party in the blue dining room of the District 6, State TB Hospital on Monday night, December 16, starting at 7 P.M. Mrs. Clara Vanzant, Edmonton, is president of the group and Mrs. Juanita Smith, Scottsville, secretary.

Plans have been formulated by our Maintenance and Housekeeping Departments to redecorate several rooms in our hospital while the patients are spending their Christmas leave at home.

Our Maintenance Department is now engaged in remodeling and making several improvements in the Laboratory on third floor.

For many years we have been presenting our service pin awards at a picnic feast for employees during the summer months. However, this year we deviated from this practice and will present eighteen eligible employees these pins at an Employee Service Luncheon to be held in the hospital's dining room on Monday, December 16, starting at 12:30 P.M.

Dr. C. C. Howard, Chairman of the State Tuberculosis Hospital Commission, and Thomas M. Layton, Executive Director, Frankfort, will present the pins and special awards at the luncheon program. In addition to eligible employees, other invited guests will include Mayor Lynn B. Mayfield, County Judge James E. Gillenwater, Circuit Judge-elect Cass Walden, and County Attorney Shelly Riherd, all of whom

A Facility Worthy Of High Praise

Those who viewed Western State College's Academic-Athletic Building for the first time Saturday went away with the impression that here indeed is a facility worthy of the great praise heaped on it during Saturday's dedicatory ceremonies.

Such adjectives as "beautiful," "magnificent" and "exciting" were used by speakers to describe the structure and they were not misplaced.

The versatile structure is all of this, and it seems certain that it will prove a tremendous asset to Bowling Green and all this section of Kentucky as well as to the college.

The E. A. Diddle Arena, which stands at the center of the structure, is of itself a splendid facility, which undoubtedly will prove the envy of many less favored institutions. With a present seating capacity of 8,500 that later can be expanded to more than 13,000 without structural change in the building, this particular part of the facility stands as a fitting memorial to Western's colorful coach Diddle who built the basketball Hilltoppers into a name that has had to be reckoned with on the national scene. In the process, of course, he created thousands of loyal fans in Bowling Green and throughout Kentucky whose support makes this type of facility possible.

But the Academic-Athletic Building is much more than a basketball arena. It contains 30 fine classrooms, which were urgently needed by the college, and other athletic

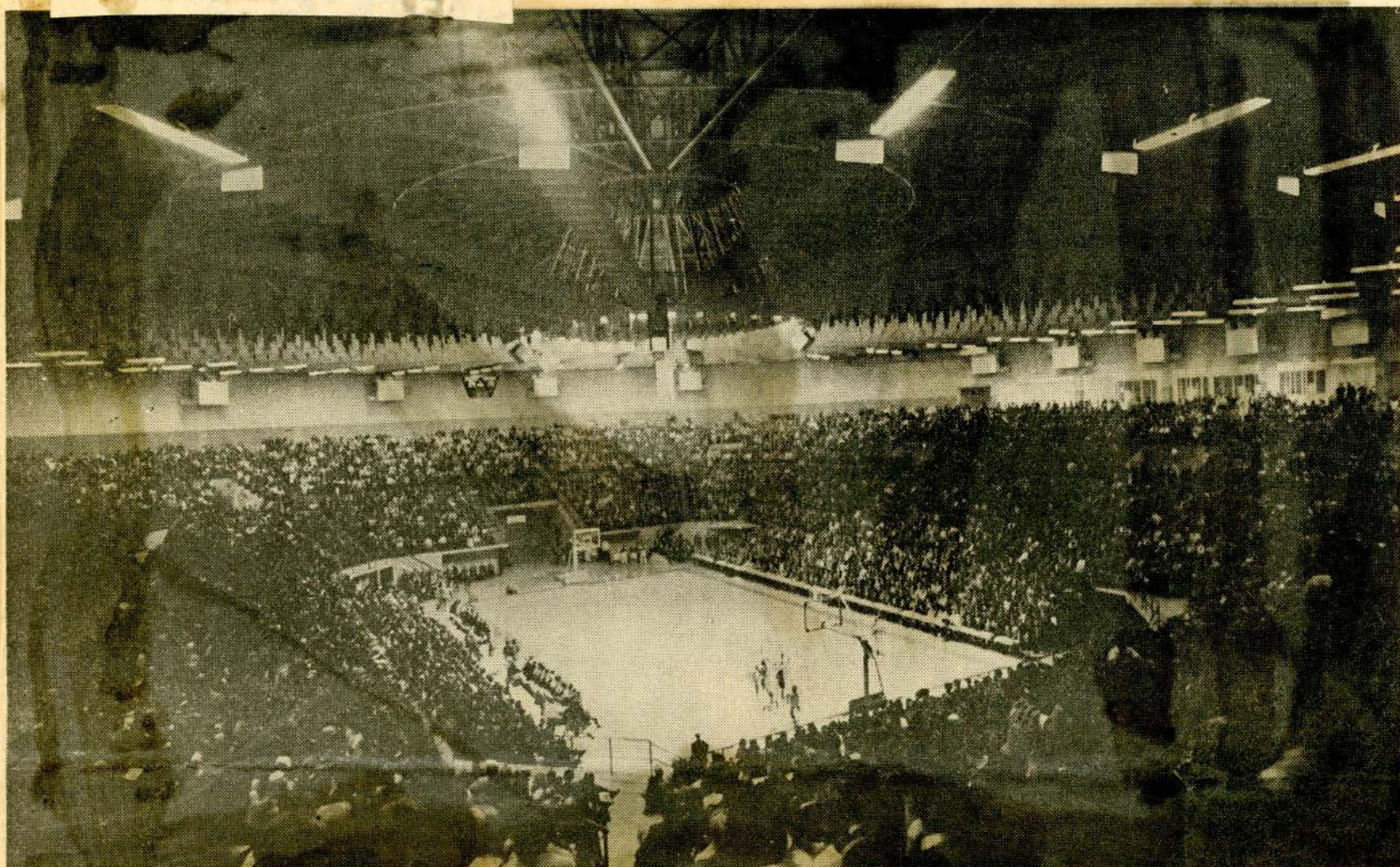
facilities such as an indoor swimming pool and an auxiliary gymnasium.

And its utility does not end there. It is anticipated that the basketball arena also will serve as the scene of such cultural activities as lectures, concerts and dramatic presentations, and thus make a huge contribution to the intellectual and aesthetic enrichment of Western and this entire area.

As Dr. E. Kelly Thompson, Western's president, observed during Saturday's ceremonies, "This multi-purpose building which we dedicate opens a new era of academic, athletic and cultural possibilities for the entire geographic area."

Dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building serves as a new reminder to citizens of Bowling Green that they are most fortunate to serve as the home of this dynamic, growing institution of higher learning and its aggressive, forward-looking leadership.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, KY., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1963



Staff Photo by Bill Strade

FULL HOUSE . . . An overflow crowd of 9,811 fans watches Western Kentucky and Vanderbilt in their Saturday night game

that dedicated the Hilltoppers' new \$3,000,000 academic-athletic building. Vandy spoiled the opening with an 80-62 victory.

8 DEC 1963 Combs, Wyatt Help Western Dedicate \$3-Million Building

By TOM DUNCAN

Courier-Journal South Kentucky Bureau

Bowling Green, Ky., Dec. 7.—Governor Bert Combs dedicated Western Kentucky State College's \$3,000,000 academic-athletic building Saturday "to the service of the people of Kentucky."

The building houses the 8,500-seat E. A. Diddle Arena, which Combs called "a great monument to a man who has dedicated so many years of his life to help the youth of this region realize the potential of which they are capable."

The arena was the centerpiece of a nighttime program, too, at which Lieutenant Governor Wilson W. Wyatt spoke.

Diddle Presented Automobile

Between the two sessions, an open house was held at the huge circular building on the Russellville road. The program ended with the Western-Vanderbilt University basketball game, with Coach Diddle receiving a new automobile at half-time ceremonies.

Combs was introduced by Dean Raymond L. Cravens as a Governor who has made "the advancement of Kentucky education . . . his first crusade."

Combs, who leaves office Tuesday, said:

"The advancement of education in Kentucky is not merely a matter of justice to our children or to our underpaid teachers. . . .

"Since this is my last appearance as Governor before many of you, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and cooperation during the last four years."

Afterward, Western President Kelly Thompson, who presided, called Combs "education's great all-time friend."

Dr. Thompson also paid particular tribute to the architects, Frank Cain of Bowling Green and Ben Johnson of Owensboro.

He credited them with making possible a beautiful building containing the giant arena—capable of expansion to more than 13,000 seats without structural changes—plus 30 classrooms, swimming pool, and other facilities.

9,811 See Vandy Top Western 82-60 In Diddle Arena

By BERT BORRONE
Daily News Sports Editor

Depth defeated dedication in the Diddle Arena dedicatory duel last night as Vanderbilt wore down game Western, 82-60, before a record throng of 9,811.

Even a brilliant 24-point performance by senior guard Darel Carrier, who scored the first and last goals of the game, could not prevent coach Ed Diddle's troops from bowing in his 42nd season-opening tilt.

It was the Vanderbilt bench, led by former Allen County High star Wayne Calvert, which was the big difference in the end. The Commodore reserves accounted for 23 points, one more than the final difference in the score, with Calvert sinking 10 of them.

The Hilltoppers, facing a Vandy team which already had won two road games and is rated a top threat in the South-eastern Conference, jumped into a startling 10-point lead at 26-16 with 7 minutes and 33 seconds remaining in the half.

Carrier had supplied 12 of those points with precise shoot-

ing and sophomore Bane Sarrett had canned three goals in as many shots, all of them from the 20-foot range.

Calvert came flying off the bench then and Vandy began moving. The Allen County product contributed three fast field goals, the last one in the half's last second on a 41-foot peg shot.

That fantastic basket, capping an 18-5 Vandy rally, gave the Commodores a 34-31 lead at intermission and they ran it to 40 points at 42-32 early in the last half.

Carrier triggered a comeback which got the Toppers within three points twice at 46-43 and 52-49.

Vanderbilt then tore off 13 consecutive points, six of them by 6-7 forward Bob Grace, for a 65-49 lead and there were no more comebacks left in the tiring Hilltoppers now.

The two Commodores that Western feared the most, 6-9 center Clyde Lee and 6-4 guard Roger Schurig, didn't hurt the Toppers in the scoring column. Lee, averaging 21.5 points a game, was checked with 11 last

night and Schurig was limited to 8.

Vandy guard John Ed Miller, though, bombed 20 points with tantalizing drives through the Western defense. And Wayne Taylor, who had not scored a field goal in Vandy's first two games, pitched in five in this third tilt.

It was that depth, though, which really made dedicated Western dead. In addition to Calvert's 10 points, reserves Ron Green and Bob Hines scored 6 and 5 points respectively and Mike Gambill supplied two points.

Against this 23-point contribution by Vandy's bench, Western retaliated with just four from its reserves — all of them by sophomore center Steve Cunningham.

In addition to depth, the Commodores had height — such superior height in the 6-9 Lee and 6-7 forward Bob (Snake) Grace that it wound up with a 53-41 margin in rebounds.

Lee in particular displayed great skill in covering the defensive board and then getting

away the half-court pass to set up fast-break goals.

Grace finished with 17 rebounds and Lee with 13. They personally got more balls off the boards than all of the 10 players Diddle employed. Fourteen of Western's 41 rebounds were of the team variety, credited to no individual.

The Hilltoppers' backboard leader was Sarrett with seven recoveries. Carrier was next with five.

Both teams were wound so tightly at the outset that they went 112 seconds before Carrier broke the scoreless ice with a jump shot from the corner.

Lee's free throw then accounted for Vandy's first point. Carrier retaliated with two singles for a 4-1 Western lead and the Hilltoppers steadily moved ahead then.

Sarrett was getting picks which freed him for long overhead sets and jumps and Carrier gunned away steadily from the circle.

Vanderbilt was using a double-post at the start, employing both Lee and Grace

deep under the goal. But Western was getting strong defensive performances from Ronnie Kidd and Ray Keeton and the Commodores had to abandon this offense as the Toppers' lead mounted.

Kidd's turn-around jumper with 7:33 left in the half sent the spread to 26-16 and the roar was deafening even in this giant arena.

But Calvert was in the game now and Grace returned after a six-minute rest on the bench. Vandy got virtually all of the rebounds in the last seven minutes and Western was finding the picks hard to get.

Calvert contributed a baseline jumper and a fast-break goal to the rally and Lee got his first goal on a corner shot at 2:50.

A driving basket by Grace gave Vandy its first lead of the game with less than a minute remaining in the half. The goal made it 32-31, Vandy.

Calvert made it a three-point spread at intermission then with his sensational peg shot from 41 feet. He was one stride past mid-court when he jumped

and fired the ball with one hand cleanly through the net.

Two goals by Miller shot Vanderbilt into a 10-point lead at 42-32 with 17:37 remaining in the game.

But Carrier contributed three field goals in less than two minutes to trigger a strong Hilltopper comeback.

It was this rally which can give Diddle heart as he faces a testing schedule with an inexperienced crew. Because even giving Vandy the benefit of two previous games, Western was the stronger team in much of the middle portions of the last half.

A goal from the corner by Sarrett, his fifth of the game without a miss, cut the Vandy edge to 52-49 with 10:39 to go.

Then came the Commodores' deadly 13-0 surge.

Calvert started it, taking plenty of the pressure off, with a slick jumper from the circle. Grace scored on a follow shot and a 15-foot toss. Bob Hines' hook was followed by a single by Miller, two frees by that Calvert again and a 20-footer by Grace.

In this rally, Lee was a backboard demon, picking off missed Western shots and getting them out quickly for fast breaks.

Western never got closer than 11 points the rest of the way.

"We played a fine first half and then inexperience got us," said Diddle. "We quit running our offense late in the first half and in the second half.

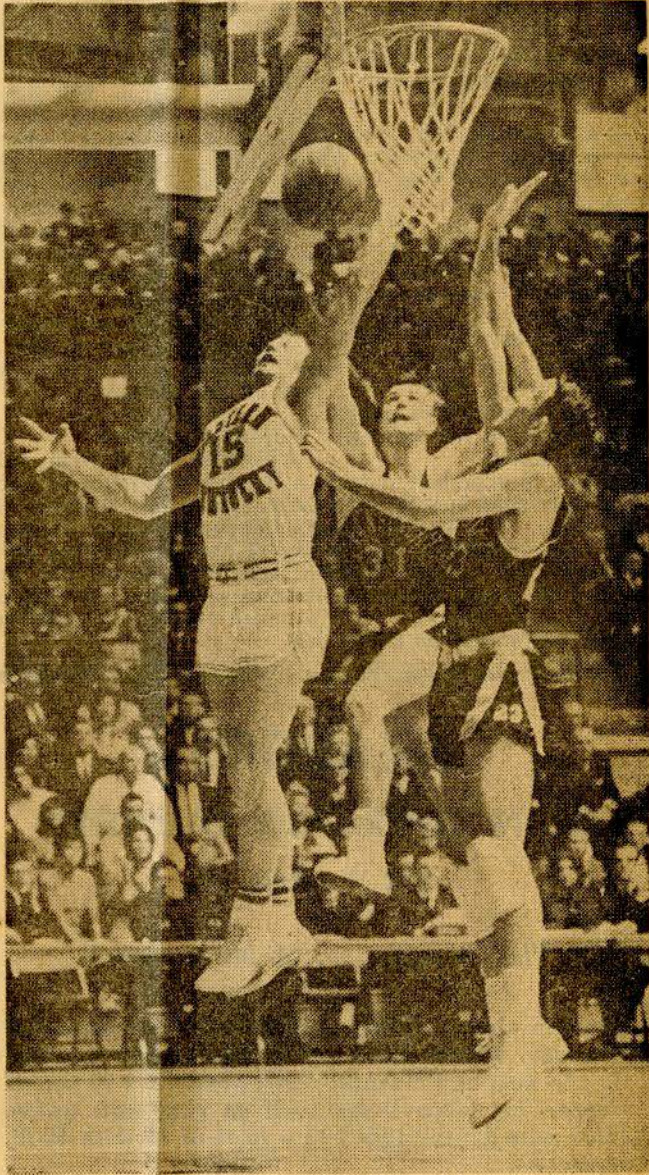
"Their depth wore us down. It's rough to meet a team this

Continued on page 18, column 4

| VANDY | G-A | F-A | PF | TP |
|-------------|-------|-------|----|----|
| Taylor | 5-7 | 0-2 | 2 | 10 |
| Grace | 5-13 | 0-1 | 4 | 10 |
| Lee | 4-13 | 3-5 | 2 | 11 |
| Miller | 6-9 | 8-9 | 0 | 20 |
| Schurig | 4-11 | 0-0 | 3 | 8 |
| Calvert | 4-5 | 2-2 | 2 | 10 |
| Green | 3-10 | 0-1 | 0 | 6 |
| Hines | 2-6 | 1-2 | 1 | 5 |
| Gambill | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0 | 2 |
| Thomas | 0-2 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| Totals | 34-78 | 14-22 | 15 | 82 |
| Percentages | .432 | .636 | | |

| W. KY. | G-A | F-A | PF | TP |
|-------------|-------|-------|----|----|
| Sarrett | 5-8 | 0-0 | 3 | 10 |
| Keeton | 4-9 | 0-3 | 2 | 8 |
| Kidd | 3-10 | 2-4 | 3 | 8 |
| D. Carrier | 9-14 | 6-7 | 3 | 24 |
| Rhorer | 3-13 | 0-0 | 2 | 6 |
| C'ingham | 0-0 | 4-6 | 2 | 4 |
| Works | 0-1 | 0-1 | 1 | 0 |
| Belcher | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Baker | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| Shuffield | 0-1 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 |
| Totals | 24-56 | 12-21 | 19 | 60 |
| Percentages | .429 | .571 | | |

| | | |
|--|----|-------|
| Vanderbilt | 34 | 48-82 |
| Western | 31 | 29-60 |
| Rebounds: Vanderbilt | 53 | — |
| Grace 17, Lee 13, Miller 4, Green 3, Hines 3, Taylor 2, Schurig 2, Thomas 2, Calvert 1, team 6. Western 41 — Sarrett 7, D. Carrier 5, Rhorer 4, Cunningham 4, Kidd 3, Keeton 2, Works 1, Shuffield 1, team 14. | | |
| Officials: John McPherson, Nashville, and Ben Edelen, Louisville. | | |



BACKBOARD BALLET—It was no tea party under the backboards in the Vanderbilt-Western battle last night as this action shot indicates. Hilltopper Ray Rhorer (No. 15) attempts a lay-up, but got too much opposition from Vandy's John Miller (31) and Wayne Taylor. The Commodores won the battle of the backboards, 53 rebounds to 40, and captured the game, 82-60.

At Halftime Of Dedication

Friends Give Diddle New Car, Plaque, Portrait, Ovations

Ed Diddle rode to center-court in the arena named after him last night in a golf cart and then drove home in a 1964 car, the gift of the friends he has made in 41 years as Western basketball coach.

A record throng of 9,811 spectators in the E. A. Diddle Arena shook the mammoth structure with their cheers when Diddle said "thank you" for the automobile, a plaque from the "W" Club and an oil portrait of himself.

The portrait was presented to the college and will hang in the arena. It was painted by Claire V. Fry, an art director for a national firm.

The presentations were made at halftime of the Vanderbilt-Western game. The invading Commodores finished strong for an 82-60 victory.

College president Kelly Thompson introduced Diddle as "one of the greatest coaches who ever lived" and W Club president Ronnie Clark thanked him for "giving your life to Western."

William (Red) McCrocklin, Diddle's first All-America player and now a General Motors executive, was on hand to give Diddle the keys to the car.

The automobile was rolled to midcourt for the presentation. It is a gray car and was wrapped in a giant red ribbon.

Although the car was no surprise, Diddle was as close to being speechless as he ever has

been in his 41 years on the Hill when the public-address microphone was handed him.

It had been a terrific strain for weeks, this dedication game, on the 68-year-old head man, who has been in and out of the hospital frequently in the last few years.

He mentioned those who had led Western to its place in the sun among the nation's colleges, paying particular tribute to the three presidents he has served under — the late Dr. H. H. Cherry, the late Dr. Paul L. Garrett and Dr. Thompson.



VETERAN COACH Ed Diddle (at microphone) says "thanks" for a new automobile and a plaque held by Mrs. Diddle (seated, left) during ceremonies honoring him at halftime of the Western-Vanderbilt game last night. The game was the first played in the

E. A. Diddle Arena, named in honor of the Hilltopper coach who is beginning his 42nd year at the Western helm. Western president Kelly Thompson can be seen over Diddle's right shoulder along with other wellwishers.

Western's New Arena Opened

NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, December 8, 1963



—Staff photo by Bill Preston
BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—Western Kentucky basketball coach Ed Diddle receives the keys to a new automobile from William "Red" McCrocklin, Diddle's first of 12 basketball All-Americans, who won the title in 1938.

Combs, Wyatt Speak at \$3 Million Home of Ed Diddle's Hilltoppers

By TOM POWELL, Staff Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky State College's magnificent \$3 million Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena were officially dedicated in two ceremonies here yesterday.

Kentucky Gov. Bert Combs, in the afternoon ceremony, described the huge circular building as the

"most beautiful, spectacular, and I think, the biggest structure I have dedicated during my four years in office."

"Kentucky is coming of age. It has grown from the knee-britches of awkward adolescence to the long-pants of progressive adulthood."

"Nowhere is that more evident than on the campus of Western Kentucky State College and in the event we are celebrating today," Combs said.

THE GOVERNOR caused a chuckle among the 3,000 people in attendance when he said, "A governor frequently has the problem of injecting adrenalin into the chiefs of governments to keep them moving. Our prob-

(Continued from Page One)
restrain him at a reasonable pace."

Thompson is Western's president. Under his direction 11 new buildings have been built here in eight years.

Dr. Thompson said the new building was designed to fill a variety of "needs of a modern college."

"All who love Western and who are interested in its progress cherish this day."

"This multi-purpose building which we dedicate opens a new era of academic, athletic, and cultural possibilities for the entire geographic area," Dr. Thompson said.

THE 188,960 square-foot structure, in addition to E. A. Diddle Arena, has 30 air-conditioned classrooms, a modern language laboratory, several tiered lecture rooms and specialized rooms for aquatics, gymnastics and other physical education courses.

The main gym combined with the auxiliary gym provides four basketball courts, three volleyball courts, 12 badminton and four handball courts. Located in front of the building is an olympic-size swimming pool.

Initial remarks at the afternoon program were made by Carson Culler, speaking for the Western student body.

Other participants were Dr. Willson E. Wood, head of the department of English, representing the Western faculty; Dr. Merrill W. Schell, president of the Alumni Association; and Maxey B. Harlin, representing the Western Board of Regents.

The governor was introduced by Dr. Raymond Cravens, dean of the college.

Spectators milled around the

premises, receiving guided tours from students. Most were awed by the sight of the gymnasium which later was filled by 9,200 fans for the Western-Vanderbilt basketball game.

ITS ULTIMATE seating capacity is 13,000, surpassed in the South only by Louisville's Freedom Hall. Present capacity is 8,500 and every seat was filled for the game last night, plus at least 700 standees.

An organ concert, featuring organist Clyde Rose, opened the night ceremonies before the game.

Lt. Gov. Wilson W. Wyatt extended greetings and echoed Gov. Combs' remarks, saying, "This is a most magnificent structure that the people of Kentucky can be extremely proud of."

There was a central figure as the proceedings moved toward their denouement, and it was the silver-haired Western basketball coach, 68-year-old Ed Diddle.

Fidgeting awkwardly at half-time ceremonies during which he was presented a new automobile and a dedication day plaque by the Western Club, Coach Diddle was gripping his trademark, an ever-present red towel. A large portrait of Diddle was given the college.

Entering the game, Diddle's career record was 754-286. Coach Ed is the only man to compile over 700 victories in more than 1,000 games at one college. Only Kansas' now-retired Phog Allen, with 771, has more wins than Diddle, who doesn't plan to retire in the near future.

"IT'S GOING to be too much fun in this new arena to retire," said Diddle.

"When I see a building as beautiful as this," Diddle said,

'Coming of Age'



—Staff photo by Bill Preston

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—Dr. Kelly Thompson, president of Western Kentucky State College, and Gov. Bert Combs greet each other at the dedication of Western's Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena.

Western's New Arena

I can't help recalling a little bandbox we played in back in the 1920's. (Diddle followers call the gym 'The Old Red Barn.')

"The gym was about six by six all around and you could hardly move. Well, they banged us around good and beat us, but I wasn't feeling too bad cause they still had to come to my place."

The coach said he looked for days for a man to referee the game and finally found one. The going rate for officials in those days was \$1 or \$2 a game.

"He said to me," now, Mr. Diddle, I'm not going to cheat for you. "I told him, I don't want you to cheat, just call them the same for one side as you do for the other."

"WELL SIR, we won the fight and we won the basketball game and I swear, I believe that was the only basketball game in history where not one foul was called. I had instructed the referee to just call jump balls and out of bounds." Diddle added with a grin, "I paid him \$7, too."

Western paid \$2,999,993 more than that for the site where Diddle's team played last night, and the only persons claiming foul were the referees.

Dec 8 1963

PARK CITY DAILY NEWS, December 8, 1963

Gov. Combs Calls Facility "Spectacular"

Western Dedicates Giant New Academic-Athletic Building

Amid solemn academic pomp and athletic excitement, Western yesterday dedicated its giant Academic-Athletic Building and 8,500-seat E. A. Diddle Arena.

"This is the most spectacular, the most beautiful and, I think, the largest structure I have dedicated," Governor Bert Combs said in his address during formal dedication ceremonies for the \$3 million fieldhouse and classroom building. The program began at 1:30 p.m. with an academic procession.

The day ended in the arena where 9,200 spectators — the largest crowd ever to witness an athletic event in Southern Kentucky—last night saw Western meet Vanderbilt to open Coach E. A. Diddle's 42nd season as Hilltopper coach.

Immediately preceding the

basketball game, Lt. Gov. Willson W. Wyatt was introduced by Western president Kelly Thompson as "the man who really started the ball rolling" for construction of the new building. Wyatt extended greetings at the evening program dedicating the athletic portion of the building.

Wyatt had also extended greetings to a standing room only crowd on the occasion celebrating Coach Diddle's 700th win in January 1960. The standing ovation he received that night when he told the crowd he would take back to Frankfort the message that Western needed a new gym was repeated last night.

"The arena is the symbol of the union of the athletic with the academic," the lieutenant governor said last night. He told the crowd that if they thought they were proud of the

building "just think how much more it means to me," saying that he left Bowling Green that January four years ago feeling he had promised Western the gymnasium.

Speaking at the afternoon session of the dual program, Combs called the multi-purpose building "a spectacular example of the progress which Kentucky is achieving."

The outgoing governor told the crowd of 3,000, which included Western's faculty arrayed in academic regalia, that he had dedicated "everything from sawmills to toll roads" during the past four years, in describing the new building as "a

Combs paid leadership of Western State College.

"A governor frequently has

the problem of injecting adrenalin into the chiefs of government departments to keep them moving," the governor observed. "Our problem with Kelly Thompson is to restrain him to a reasonable pace."

Thompson, who presided over the program, introduced a large number of people who had a role in the building's construction. Among them were state officials, Western's board of regents, Western's planning Committee and various planners and builders.

"The creation of this building would have been impossible without the united thinking and any people in responsibility."

made by Carson Culler, representing the stu-

Continued on page 3, column 3

Western

Continued from page 1

dent body; Dr. Willson E. Wood, representing the faculty; Dr. Merrill W. Schell, alumni association president, and Maxey B. Harlin, member of Western's Board of Regents.

Wood called the dedication of the Academic-Athletic Building the "culmination of Dr. (H. H.) Cherry's vision. Dr. Cherry was Western's first president.

After the afternoon ceremony, visitors toured the circular building's varied facilities during an open house which was observed until 5 p.m.

The structure being dedicated provides Western with 30 classrooms plus offices, for three departments of the college — foreign languages, military science and physical education.

Constructed over a period of more than two years, it has a diameter of 100 yards and a height of 90 feet from floor level to the highest point of its bicycle-wheel type roof.

The E. A. Diddle Arena, named for Western's colorful coach, who was honored during half-time ceremonies last night, has a seating capacity of approximately 8,500, which can be increased to more than 13,000 without structural change to the building.

The present seating includes more than 3,000 theatre-type seats plus permanent bleachers at the second level and pull-out bleachers on the floor level.

Also within the building are an auxiliary gymnasium for an Olympic-size swimming pool and a variety of athletic dressing rooms, shower rooms and equipment storage areas.

The portable stage from which the dedication ceremonies were conducted permits the basketball facility to be converted into an auditorium for musical and theatrical programs, convention and lectures.

When rollout bleachers are removed, the arena floor is converted into three basketball floors for practice sessions and intramural sports.

Dero G. Downing, Western's dean of admissions and chairman of the dedicatory committee, described the facility and what it would mean to Western during the evening portion of the dedication.

He was assisted by Western's band and choir and the community chorus, which demonstrated the arena's capabilities as an auditorium for musical programs.

The program began with the Western cheerleaders filing into the arena carrying baskets of flowers with which they banked the dais. The cheerleaders were followed by the Ohio Valley Champion Hilltopper football team.

White-uniformed members of the Pershing Rifle Color Guard raised the flag as Jeanette Rider Sallee a Western graduate sang the national anthem accompanied by the Western band.

Thompson read a telegram from Governor-elect Edward T. Breathitt in which he congratulated the school, Thompson and Diddle. Western's president also introduced and asked to stand Caldwell County High School's state champion football team, coached by a former Western athlete, Fred Clayton.



CEREMONIES DEDICATING Western State College's huge Academic-Athletic Building yesterday afternoon featured an address by Gov. Bert Combs (center), flanked here on

(Daily News Photo) the speaker's stand by (left) Western president Kelly Thompson and (right) Western regent Maxie B. Harlin.

Ruby's Report

Uncle Ed still showing it off as building's dedication begins

By EARL RUBY, Courier-Journal Sports Editor

Bowling Green, Ky., Dec. 7.—Early arrivals for the dedication of one of the wonders of the world—a place big enough to seat most of the people who want to see Uncle Ed Diddle's teams play basketball—wound their way up long, curved ramps to the majestic entrance of Western Kentucky's new Academic-Athletic Building here Saturday afternoon.

Strangers found the place easily. They just followed the crowd. Hereafter, they

will find it just as easily by simply asking, "Where is the Diddle Arena?"

Technically, the Diddle Arena is the hall in the center of the \$3,000,000 multi-purpose building containing everything from a swimming pool to a foreign-language room with booths and headsets for all students.



Ed Diddle

But if it hadn't been for Mr. Diddle and his athletes, those classrooms might have been much longer in coming. So if you ask a Bowling Greener sometime in the future where the Academic-Athletic Building is, don't be surprised if he says, "You mean the Diddle Arena."

Dr. Kelly Thompson, Western's president, was so busy greeting arrivals he hardly had time to don his cap and gown before Governor Bert Combs appeared in full regalia and photographers were asking for pictures of the two together. Nick Denes, the football coach; Ted Hornback, assistant basketball coach, and scads of others in caps and gowns were welcoming visitors on all sides. . . . I asked where Mr. Diddle was. . . . Nobody knew. I went downstairs and found him. He was showing Red McCrocklin, one of early All-Americans, his new team dressing room.

Never Wore One Before

Too Late To Begin—Asked if he wasn't going up and get into cap and gown with the rest, the revered coach, now in his 42d year as coach and 68th year as one of nature's noblemen, drawled, "I've never been in one of those things yet and I'm too old to start now."

Mrs. Diddle joined him about that time and laughed, "That's just what I said when they offered to send me an orchid—I haven't worn one yet. Why start now?"

The beloved pair sat in chairs with the "common folks" on the arena floor as the Western Brass Ensemble played "Pomp and Circumstance" and the procession of Western "brass" began. . . . It was a long and impressive entrance of dignitaries.

Then came the choral invocation by the Western Choir led by Ohm Pauli.

Miss Elizabeth Summers, a sophomore music major from Bowling Green, was to have accompanied the choir on the bright new organ which was rolled out for the occasion.

But as Mr. Pauli gestured for music, Elizabeth shook her head and almost wept. The electricity hadn't been turned on and the organ wouldn't play. . . . Rising to the occasion, the kids sang a cappella and did it beautifully. Then came the speeches.

Proudly Guides Tour

Office Crowded—Before the crowd began to gather, Mr. Diddle kindly and proudly showed me his baby. . . . "They say the construction men threatened to strike," he said, "to make me stay out of their way, but that's not so. I helped everybody from the diggers to the roof men and didn't ask for any pay."

"Now here is my office." . . . It was so crowded with mementos, citations, pictures and stuff we couldn't turn around. We backed out into the main lobby where along one wall are several giant trophy cases. Coach Diddle pointed to two Sugar Bowl cups as his most prized possessions. . . . He showed many nicely lighted classrooms, a swimming pool and then a large practice basketball court.

"This," he said, "is bigger than the whole building I played basketball in when I went to Centre." . . . We came to another door. "This is our officials' dressing room," he said. "Nothing else like it in America—look, a secret door to the rear. If the crowd doesn't like their work all they have to do is undo this latch and they are gone, and nobody will know where they went."

We came to the dressing room.

"Here is something new, too," he said with pride — "a door opening directly onto the court so the players won't have to fight the crowd getting on or off the court."

McCrocklin, who is 6 feet, 7 inches in his shoes, lacked about four inches of touching the ceiling of the entryway.

"Hey," he grinned, "can all of your boys walk upright through here?"

"I haven't tried 'em," said Mr. Diddle, "but I hope I'll have some who have to stoop."

It was a wonderful day and a beautiful ceremony. . . . Everything was perfect. . . . Well, everything but the organ. I hope Miss Summers will find it in her heart to forgive it. After she gives it a swift kick, that is.

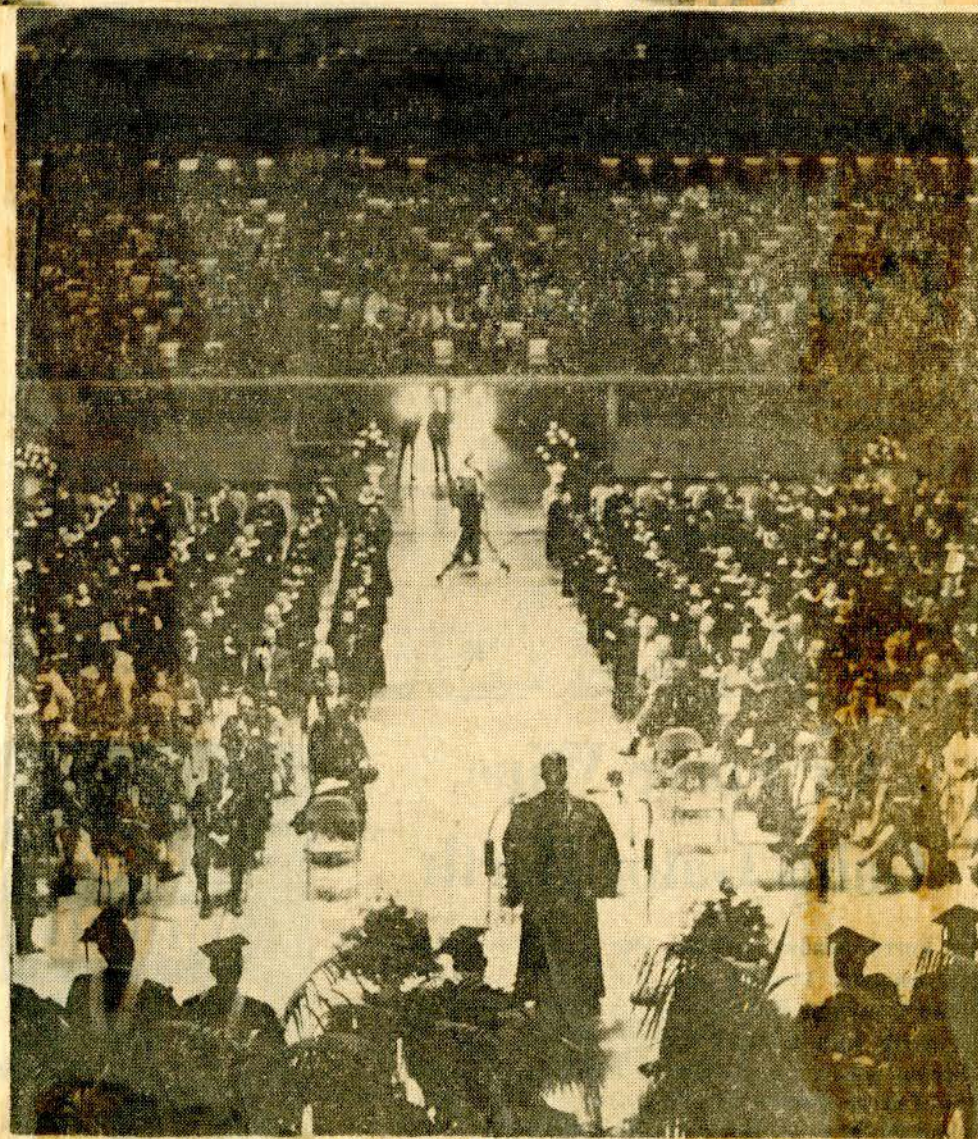


Dr. Kelly Thompson



Staff Photos by Tom Duncan

NEW HOME FOR TROPHIES . . . Western Kentucky basketball coach Ed Diddle (right) shows his brother George some of the trophy cases in the school's new Academic-Athletic Building which was dedicated yesterday. In the center of the building is Diddle Arena, named after the Hilltopper coach who sent his 42d Western team into action last night.



GOVERNOR SPEAKS . . . Governor Bert Combs (standing in center with back to camera) gave the dedication address yesterday afternoon at Bowling Green as Western Kentucky opened its new \$3,000,000 Academic-Athletic Building. The address was given in Diddle Arena, where last night Western opened its basketball season against Vanderbilt.

JOE CREASON'S KENTUCKY



MANY things go into molding the career of a man. Sometimes it's a member of his own family who influences the way he goes. Another time it's an example set by a friend, or even a kindness by a stranger that tips the scales one way or another, as in this story:

The time was early fall in 1928; the place the hilltop campus of Western Kentucky State College in Bowling Green. A young freshman football player from Lebanon sat depressed on the steps of a classroom building, bemoaning a practice injury that had forced him to give up his college gridiron career before it had even started.

As he sat there immersed in dark thoughts, Ed Diddle, Western's basketball coach who then, as now, was the hero of every student at the college, happened by and asked why all the gloom. The boy explained he'd been advised to give up football because of the injury, he was flat broke, and was getting ready to go home and give up college as not being for him.

Diddle waved the boy into his automobile and drove to a Bowling Green bank.

There he signed a note for \$25, and handed the boy the money.

The boy was Dr. Kelly Thompson, who just happens to be president of Western today.

Highly Useful Relationship

The Diddle-Thompson meeting is recalled here because that kindness of the big man on the campus to an unknown freshman was the gesture that changed Thompson's life. It also started a relationship between the two men which has been one of the longest (35 years) and most harmonious (not one harsh word) in American college life.

Thompson not only remained in school, he immediately became a part-time college publicist, later director of public relations, then assistant to the president and finally, nine years ago, president.

The relationship of the two men reaches a new plateau today when the building Thompson has hoped to see go up on the campus ever since he has been there is dedicated officially. The structure is the \$3,000,000 Academic-Athletic Building, the center part of which is the E. A. Diddle Arena, a modern-as-tomorrow basketball hall named for the veteran coach. The main building will be dedicated at 1:30 p.m. (C.S.T.), the arena at 6:30, with Western playing Vanderbilt afterwards.

It took years of side-by-side work for the Diddle-Thompson duo to put Western in the big-time of college basketball.

It paid off in 1942 when the team was asked to play in the National Invitational Tournament at Madison Square Garden, a postseason meet which then was more or less the Rose Bowl of basketball. Western finished as runner-up to West Virginia, losing in the final game 47-45, and its reputation was made.

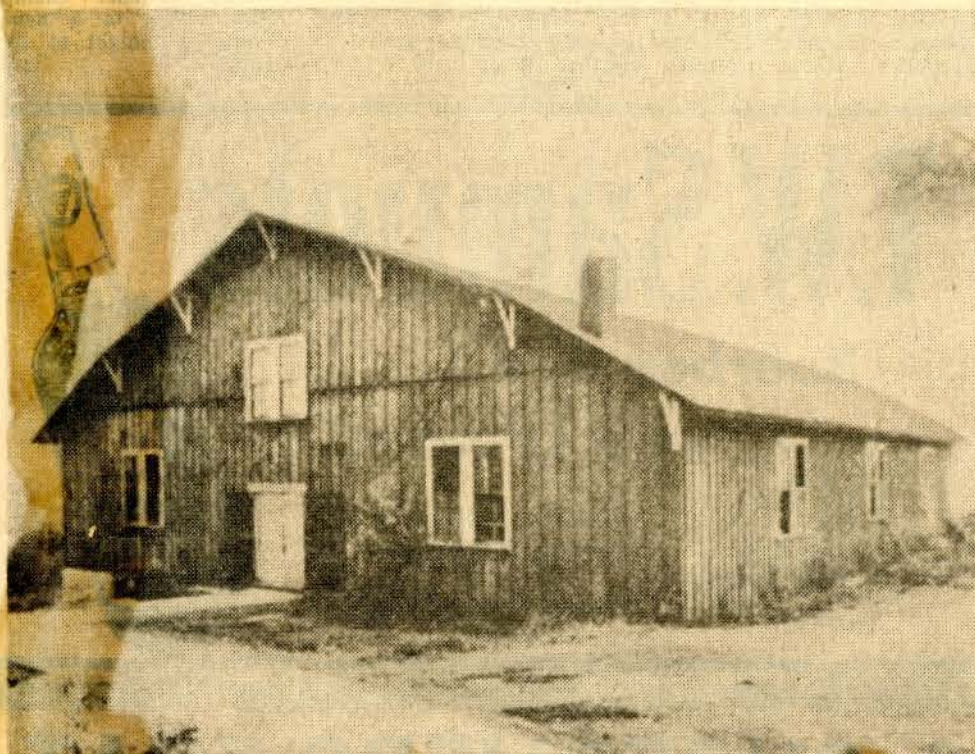
Since then it has played against the best teams in the land, and has participated in seven other N.I.T. tournaments and in the N.C.A.A. meet six times.



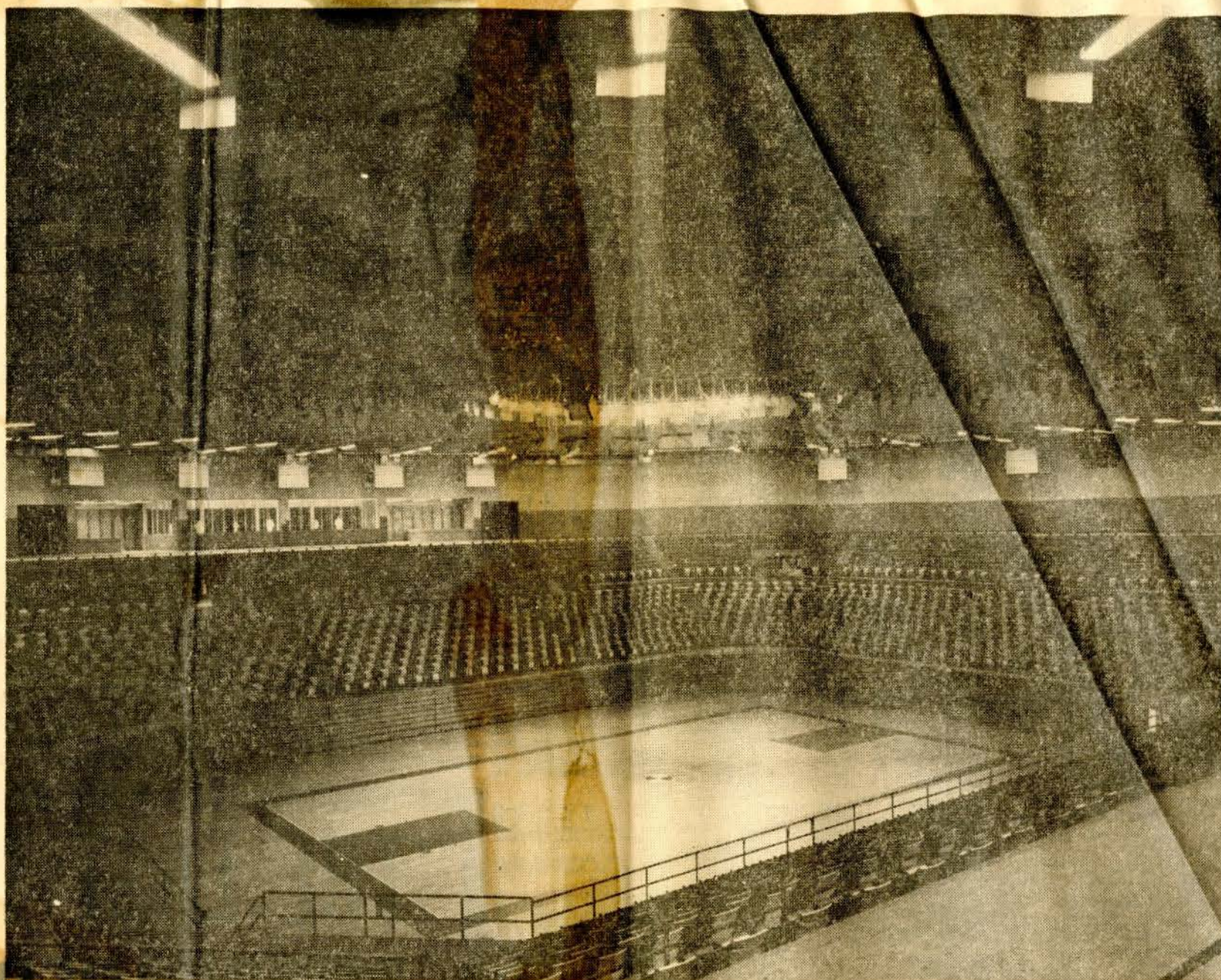
THOMPSON AND DIDDLE

As a coach's tears went unshared

'Barns' Have Changed At Western!



PAST AND PRESENT . . . Western Kentucky basketball fans will flock to the new \$3,000,000 plant (right) tonight for the dedication game with Vanderbilt. Some Hilltopper fans may even recall the first playing palace for Ed Diddle's 1922 cagers (above), called by Western rivals the "Little Red Barn." Western played nine seasons in the original "Barn" and the next 33 in the Physical Education Building which the Hilltoppers left last February.



8,500 To See Western Dedication; Eastern, Murray In Tough Tests

By DAVID C. ADAMS

Bluegrass basketball fans who are anxious to get a line on the state's entries in the Ohio Valley Conference this season need not look beyond tonight's rugged schedule.

Western Kentucky opens against Vanderbilt in the dedication game of the Hilltoppers' new \$3,000,000 academic-athletic building.

Murray entertains nationally rated Bradley and Eastern is host to highly-regarded Dayton. Morehead's defending co-champion Eagles lift the O. V.C. lid at Middle Tennessee.

All are back-breaking assignments, to say the least.

In other state college action:

Pikeville plays at Berea for the second straight night, Cumberland's high-scoring Indians

the Physical Education Building — Western's second gym — on February 9, 1931, and the 'Toppers beat Georgetown College 41-24. Diddle's 33-year record in this gym showed 336 victories and 38 defeats.

In the last game, on February 26 of this year, Western nipped East Tennessee 80-79.

So the "granddaddy" of basketball totes a 754-286 won-lost record over all.

Western hopes this season rely on Diddle getting the most from some talented

sophomores and a third fine season from senior Darel Carrier of Bristol. Carrier hit the basket for 19 points a game last year.

Keeton At Center

Carrier's running mate at guard will be Ray Rhorer. Ray Keeton opens at center. Sophomores Bane Sarrett and either Ronnie Kidd or Steve Cunningham start in the front court.

At Murray, coach Cal Luther will remind his veteran Racers how close they came to knock-

ing off Bradley last year on the Peoria floor. The final margin of 79-78 doesn't show that Murray lost at the foul line.

Luther will assign 6-foot, 8-inch soph Stewart Johnson to 6-10 Joe Strawder, Bradley's pivot star. Jim Jennings may draw LaVerne Tart, the Braves' No. 2 scorer last season, or soph Ernie Thompson.

Depends On Sophs

Coach Jim Baechtold of Eastern, with a front line averaging 6-6, has got balanced

scoring in two games and superb rebounding from 6-8 Bob Tolan. Gordon Hatton is the top Dayton Flyer threat.

Bobby Laughlin, with his guard-oriented offense, hopes his sophomore-dominated Eagles can regroup from a pasting at Ohio University. Any one of three newcomers—Henry Akin, Floyd McCoy and Tommy Castle—is capable of taking the heat off guards Harold Sergent and Roy Ware.

The Eagles must stop 6-3 Larry Stewart of Clinton, Ky., at Murfreesboro.

College Heights Herald

Western Kentucky State College

VOLUME 43, NO. 9-Z251

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1963



A DREAM COME TRUE for Western officials, alumni, and students is the huge, circular Academic-Athletic Building, located on the Russellville Road at 16th St. Constructed at a cost of \$3,000,000, the building houses E. A. Diddle Arena, 30 master classrooms, an olympic-size swimming pool, auxiliary gymnasiums, locker rooms, offices, and storage space. Governor Bert Combs will deliver the dedicatory address during the afternoon program, scheduled to begin at 1:30, and Lt. Governor Wilson W. Wyatt will be the principal speaker at the evening dedication of E. A. Diddle Arena. Over 9,500 fans are expected to be on hand for the dedicatory game tonight between the Western Hilltoppers and the Vanderbilt Commodores.

Dedication Of A-A Building And E. A. Diddle Arena Set For Today

Today another star is added to the crown of Western. After days, months, and years of planning and laboring, the Academic - Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena is a completed reality and is to be officially dedicated.

Concluding the dedication ceremonies, Western will battle Vanderbilt University in the Topper's opening game of the 1963-64 season. The 8:15 p.m. game begins Coach E. A. Diddle's 42nd year at Western.

Governor Combs To Speak

Governor Bert T. Combs will deliver the dedicatory address at the afternoon session. Beginning at 1:30 p.m., the program will begin with an academic procession. Other speakers on the program will represent the student body, faculty, alumni, and Board of Regents.

Visitors will be invited to tour the building during an open house following the dedication. The athletic part of the build-



GOV. BERT COMBS

ing will be dedicated in a separate program beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the E. A. Diddle Arena. Lieutenant Governor Wilson Wy-



LT. GOV. WILSON W. WYATT

at will deliver the address during the ceremony.

Coach Edgar A. Diddle will be honored in halftime ceremon-

ies to be conducted by the W-club of former Western athletes. A number of attending past Western greats will be introduced. To highlight this part of the program Coach Diddle will be presented a 1964 automobile — a token of appreciation from many of his friends.

The completion of the \$3,000,000 structure brings to end a three year long job.

Ground Breaking

Ground breaking ceremonies began the actual work November 17, 1961. The program was planned to coincide with Western Founder's Day. However, at that time Western's building

committee had been at work on plans for the giant structure for more than a year.

Many Western students have already been initiated to the fact that the building is a multi-purpose facility. The home of three academic departments, it provides much needed classroom and office space for the college.

Three Departments

Around the circular perimeter of the building are 30 master classrooms, lecture rooms, and seminar rooms, plus offices for the faculties of the three de-

Continued on page 11, column 3

"A Fabulous Facility," Says Dr. Thompson

By Jane Trevathan

An elated President Kelly Thompson terms the all-modern Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena, "a fabulous facility that will serve not only as a great athletic arena for this geographic area, but an edifice that can be used for all types of community events, cultural and business-wise."

The President continued, "The idea for this building came to me about three years ago. Most new gyms were being built by putting them down into the ground, but I thought it would be better to get above the ground and capture the space you would turn over to the soil. Without taking credit from the architects or engineers, we did



KELLY THOMPSON

Students Speak Highly Of Building And Arena

By Clair Nichols and Denney Nachand

More important, possibly, than any technical or aesthetic appraisal by experts of Western's new Academic - Athletic Building is the opinion of the student body it will serve.

The general reaction around campus has been largely favorable. Many students expressed satisfaction at the excellent accommodations for athletic con-

tests, the large seating capacity, and the easy accessibility to and from all seats.

The expanded facilities for physical education classes, both activity and lecture, are of special interest to those majoring in this field. Tom Carbotti, junior from Brooklyn, expressed this opinion:

"The fine dressing rooms and auxiliary gymnasium will provide more rooms and generally

improve physical education courses."

Another P. E. major echoed that comment.

"Western has done a fine thing for itself and for physical education," Mike Kenney, senior from West Hartford, Conn. and president of the Physical Education club, said. "This new building will be a great aid in

Continued on page 11, column 1

Continued on page 9, column 1

Combs, Wyatt To Speak **Park City**
Dec. 1,

1963

Western Building Dedication Set

Addresses by Gov. Bert Combs and Lt. Gov. Wilson W. Wyatt will highlight the dedication of Western State College's \$3 million Academic - Athletic Building and the 8,500-seat E. A. Diddle Arena Saturday.

Governor Combs' address is scheduled during the dedication of the A-A Building beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Lieutenant Governor Wyatt is to speak at the evening dedication of the Diddle Arena. This program starts at 6:30 p.m.

A standing - room - only through of 9,000—largest indoor gathering ever assembled in Kentucky outside the metropolitan areas of Louisville and Lexington — is expected for the evening dedication.

Following the formal program, the Western and Vanderbilt University basketball teams tangle, starting at about 8:15 p.m. The game will mark the launching of Ed Diddle's 42nd season as Western's head coach.

The college's graduate "W" Club, composed of men who have earned letters in a varsity sport, has scheduled a halftime ceremony honoring Diddle. It will be capped with the presentation of a 1964 car to the veteran coach.

Open house will be observed in the giant building, which is more than 300 feet in diameter, from the conclusion of the afternoon program until 5 p.m. Visitors may tour the building during this time.

Here is the dedication program for the afternoon:

—"Pomp And Circumstances," Western brass ensemble, directed by Bennie Beach.

—Choral Invocation, "The Lord's Prayer," the Western choir, directed by Ohm Pauli.

—Remarks by Carson Culler, representing the college's senior class; Dr. Willson E. Wood, head of the English department, Dr. Merrill W. Schell, Owensboro, president of the college's

Alumni Association, and Maxey B. Harlin, City, a member of the college's Board of Regents.

—"Alleluia" by the Western choir.

—Introduction of the dedicatory speaker by Dr. Raymond Cravens, dean of the college.

—Dedicatory address by Gov. Bert Combs.

—Choral benediction by the Western choir.

The evening program:

—Organ concert by Claude Rose from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

—National Anthem, Mrs. Jeanette Rider Sallee soloist, and flag-raising ceremony by the Pershing Rifle Color Guard.

—Commentary on the Diddle Arena by Dero G. Downing, dedication committee chairman, with participation by the college choir, band and community chorus.

—Address by Lt. Gov. Wilson Wyatt.

—"God Bless America" by the college band, chorus and choir.

—"College Heights", sung by Mrs. Sallee.

—Western vs Vanderbilt, starting at about 8:15 p.m.

—Halftime ceremony honoring coach Diddle.

The multi-purpose Academic-Athletic Building and Diddle Arena were designed to fill a variety of needs for the fast-growing college.

The beautiful building will serve as a much-needed classroom building, an auditorium for concerts, lectures and theatrical programs, a gymnasium for a myriad physical education activities and a huge arena where Western's famous basketball Hilltoppers will perform.

Around its circular perimeter are 30 master classrooms, lecture rooms and seminar rooms plus offices for the faculties of the three departments housed there.

The Department of Foreign Languages has been conducting classes in several classrooms and a fully-equipped language laboratory there since September. Two other departments — Military Science and Physical Education — will move in when the building is completely finished.

As an auditorium for concerts, lectures and dramatic presentations, the Arena can have a great impact upon the intellectual and aesthetic enrichment of the college and its region. The building and arena will serve as a cultural center for Southern and Western Kentucky.

As a gymnasium and athletic arena, the building contains all the facilities associated with such a plant—main playing floor, auxiliary gymnasium and classrooms for physical education classes, swimming pool, dressing room facilities for both varsity sports and physical education activities and equipment rooms.

The E. A. Diddle Arena ranks among the finest, most modern campus athletic facilities in the country. Its ultimate seating capacity of more than 13,000 is surpassed in the South only by Freedom Hall in Louisville. Its present capacity of approximately 8,500 can be expanded to that without structural alterations.

Because of its circular design, seating in the E. A. Diddle Arena is better than in most buildings of similar capacity. There are no posts or supports to obstruct the view of spectators in even the most distant seats.

The increased capacity should also open the way for Western to play a more attractive inter-sectional basketball schedule than in the past.

All-Day Program Set Dec. 7

Plans For E.A. Diddle Arena's Opener With Vandy Mapped

By BERT BORRONE
Daily News Sports Editor

Western officially started the ball rolling yesterday for the E. A. Diddle Arena dedication game against Vanderbilt on Dec. 7.

* * *

President Kelly Thompson and coach Ed Diddle confirmed the opponent and officially announced the date yesterday and said committees already are at work on the planned all-day program.

The Daily News had reported exclusively more than six weeks ago that Vanderbilt would be the dedication foe in the \$2.9 million Academic-Athletic Building which houses the giant arena.

The game will be a milestone even in a career as remarkable as Diddle's. It will be the home-opener of his 42nd season as Western's head coach.

The previous 41 campaigns produced 754 victories and 286 defeats.

Work on the mammoth building is proceeding almost on schedule, despite a bitter winter, and Thompson said it will be ready for use before the opening of the basketball season.

"In fact," he said, "our foreign language, physical education and military science departments plan to begin their work in the new building when Western's fall semester opens in September."

By the time the 1963-64 basketball season opens, the present gymnasium is expected to be in the process of being converted into a library. There is a possibility, however, that the Hilltoppers will play a scrimmage game in the old gym before moving to the arena.

* * *

In addition to the E. A. Diddle

Arena, the Academic-Athletic Building will contain 30 master classrooms to house the three major academic departments, an Olympic-size swimming pool, office facilities for faculty members, an auxiliary gymnasium, dressing rooms and storage areas.

The arena itself will seat 8,500 for basketball as it opens, but can be expanded to 13,000-seat capacity without any structural changes. A portable stage will make the arena suitable for use as an auditorium for large meetings, theatrical and musical productions.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the giant structure were held on November 15, 1961, when a bulldozer, rather than the traditional spade, was used to turn the first dirt on the site.

More than 1,000 people attended the ceremonies, held in con-

junction with the observance of Founder's Day, an annual event held as close as possible to the birth date of Dr. H. H. Cherry, who founded Western 57 years ago.

The Academic-Athletic Building is located on a 12-acre tract on the Russellville Road, near the college's Maintenance Service Building. It is circular in design, with a diameter of over 300 feet and a height of 90 feet from playing-floor level to the highest point of the roof.

Clark Construction Co., Owensboro, is the general contractor. Frank Cain, Bowling Green, and Ben Johnson, Owensboro, are the architects for the spectacular project.

Tickets for the dedication game with Vanderbilt will not be on sale with regular season tickets, but will be sold on a single-game basis.

New Gym, Same Towel for Diddle Dandies



BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—Western Kentucky's Ed Diddle, who has been head basketball coach since 1922, holds his famous red towel in front of Western's new arena. The edifice will be dedicated Dec. 7 when the Hill-toppers take on Vanderbilt.

Western's Diddle Arena Ready For Return to Cage Prominence

By TOM POWELL
TENNESSEAN Sports Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—“We’ll be back, and when we get back, we’ll have the most beautiful place in Kentucky to play in,” said Western Kentucky basketball coach Ed Diddle yesterday.

DIDDLE WAS standing out the fabulous new Western Kentucky Arena which, in fact, bears his name. The official title for the magnificent \$3 million structure is Academic Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena, but no self-respecting sports writer will ever call it this, so might as well begin now to tab it Diddle Arena.

now, there now, but we’ll get back in a few years—hard,” said the 69-year-old mentor with a gleam in his eye. “We’ve got plenty of parking space, and we’re going to need it,” the grand old man continued. Dedication ceremonies are Dec. 7 when Vanderbilt furnishes the opposition.

The arena is so large that a complete football field could be placed in it, spun around, and none of the edges would be touched.

SCHOOL President Kelly Thompson calls the structure “a fabulous facility that will serve not only as a great athletic arena for this geographic area, but an edifice that can be used for all types of community events, cultural and businesswise.”

Diddle says “There’s not anything in the country like it.”

Diddle remarked “I’ve seen

this place grow from three buildings to 40 some odd. We tried from 1922 to 1930 to get our first gym and the papers wrote editorials saying we’d never fill it. Then we did, the came back and wrote about why we didn’t build it bigger in the first place. This one ought to be big enough,” he said with a big grin.

THE ROOF IS 340 feet in diameter on the outside and 300 feet in diameter inside.

The roof is the most unusual feature of the building. In fact it’s unique and the men who made it are now seeking to patent their idea. It is called a bicycle-wheel type.

The amazing part is that there are no girders to block anybody’s view in a building that will ultimately seat 13,500 for basketball. Present seating capacity is 8,500.

The floor space in the building that can be utilized is 188,960 square feet and even Coach Diddle won’t be able to

toss his famed red towel against the roof that is 98 feet higher than the playing floor.

THE FOREIGN language department is already in the new building and during the Thanksgiving holidays, the military science and physical education sections will move in.

Thompson said proudly, though humbly, “The idea for this building came from me about three years ago. Most new gyms were being built by putting them down into the ground, but I figured it would be better to get above the ground and capture the space you would turn over to the soil. Without taking credit from the architects or engineers, we didn’t call them and ask them for something. The idea for what we wanted was born right on this campus and anybody who was to be associated with it, was called

on for advice and put on a committee.

“You know, they built a cafeteria here once and nobody ever talked to anybody who ever cooked food,” Thompson laughed. That didn’t happen this time.

“We got more for our money than anybody could ever expect. We think it solves a great problem,” Thompson continued.

“THIS IS basketball country, you know and now we not only have a building to hold basketball crowds but one that will serve in so many ways every day of the week. It houses 30 classrooms. I’m convinced you’ll see more and more circular buildings in the future. There is absolutely no wasted space.”

Diddle, whose teams have racked up a peerless record of 754 wins and 286 losses, most of them in the old arena, admitted he was a bit sentimental about leaving his old home.

“It’s not as easy to pull up and leave as you might think,” he coughed. “I’ve had a lot of good, happy thoughts and memories here, and a lot of sad ones.”

ASKED SOME of his most memorable moments, Diddle said, “There’s been so many, but we won 89 consecutive games here before they got me, and by one point. I haven’t forgotten that night.”

Diddle is proud of every part of the arena and shouted at thoughtless students walking on the sod in front of it. “That stuff cost \$3 a yard, walk around.” You can bet Mr. Diddle does.



—Staff photos by Jack Corn
BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—Kelly Thompson, president of Western Kentucky College, looks over blueprints that are now a reality in the form of the new Academic Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena.

