

COACH E.A. DIDDLE STORIES

Told by Jim Pickens

Tom Tinsley
9:10 TTh
Dr. Clarke

These stories are possibly ones that haven't been reported among the large collection in the folklore files. Mr. Jim Pickens, Western Kentucky University baseball coach, played baseball for Mr. Diddle here at Western. His reflections are personal recollections about the most famous man in Western's history.

1.

Coach Diddle was taking the Cook girls, twin cheerleaders, to Hopkinsville when he ran over a bird dog. The girls cried, "We better stop."

Coach Diddle replied, "Stop nothing," as he threw gravel and shot up the hill. "Don't you know we could get killed. We could never explain to a farmer how we killed his bird dog like that."

At a basketball game at De Pauw in Chicago, the boys were practicing in a high school gym on a stage. After practicing the boys found a dummy phone on the stage and decided to play a joke on Coach Diddle. They called to Coach Diddle, who was on the other end of the floor, and told him it was a long distance call on tape from the Louisville Courier Journal. They told him to just talk on the phone about the game and not to ask any questions because there would not be any answer. He was told to hang up the phone after he finished talking about the game.

Coach Diddle gave a fifteen minute oratory about the game while the boys were laughing and hee hawing on stage. It was a year later before he found out he had talked into a dummy phone but when he did, Coach Diddle looked up half of the boys and wore them out.

One night the team was playing at S.I.U. during the War years. The threat of espionage ran through the Country so the boys went down town and found a fire cracker and attached it to the accelerator. That night after the game they all went out to the car and Coach Diddle asked, "Everybody in?"

The boys answered, "Everybody is in."

Coach Diddle turned the ignition on and the thunder of noise and the smoke went everywhere. Diddle opened the car door and leaped out on his head and shoulders yelling, "The espionagers are here! "

He found out the Culprit a week later and really got after him.

The baseball team was playing a double hitter at Murray so we were staying over night and got one free meal. Coach Diddle was pretty tight with money in those days so he said, "You get forty cents for breakfast."

All you had to do was sign your name on a ticket, give it to the cashier and then get on the bus. Lee Robertson (now Alumni Director) and I were at a table with two freshmen. Lee looked at me and said, "What are you having?"

I said, "I'm having Country ham and eggs."

Lee said, "I am too."

We ordered Country ham and eggs and the meal came to one dollar and sixty cents each. When we finished eating, we reached over and got their (the freshmen) tickets, initialed them, handed them to the cashier and walked out. We were clear with forty cents and they were held with the \$1.60 tickets. They went up with their tickets about the same time Coach Diddle went up to pay for all the tickets. When he saw those \$1.60 tickets he hit the ceiling. You could hear him for four miles in Murray, Kentucky, say, "If that didn't beat anything I've ever seen, freshman of all people eating Country ham on me. You haven't pitched a day in your life and you're down here eatin' and getting fat, eatin' Country ham."

He caught on to Lee and I after we had gone up the road a few miles.

On a trip to Northern Kentucky, Coach Diddle was driving pretty fast. We crossed a bridge going about 70 m.p.h. when I looked back and said, "Aha, Coach, one got us."

He said, "Well isn't that something. Now liste, don't you say a word. I'll do all the talking. I'm fed up with the way I've been picked up." This makes about the second or third time. He said, "Now, Jim, I don't want you to open your mouth. I'll take care of this and I'll do all the talking."

The policeman pulled in front of us, stopped, got out of his car and walked over to us. Coach Diddle got the window down and said, "How are you doing, Mister Law?" The policeman said, "You were speeding." Diddle replied, "Yes sir, Mr. Law, I was speeding. I'll pay the fine." The policeman said okay and wrote him out a ticket.

We started off and had gone about half a mile when Coach Diddle said, "I told you I'd tell him off, didn't I Jim? I don't like them guys fooling me like that."

I said, "Yeah, Coach, you really told him off."

One night on a bus ride back from Murray, we were going through Hopkinsville when I said, "We've got an awful lot of young fillas on this bus. I think it would be a good idea if they could see a professional baseball game. If they could see the Hopkinsville ~~Kiddie~~ League ballclub play tonight it would really help us."

"Nothing doing, said the Coach, I'm going home."

I said, "It really would help us. By this time we were out by Western Kentucky state Hospital and several of the other guys had started begging him to stay. The coach kept telling us no but by the time we got to Fairview he said okay but only if we would shut our mouths. So we headed back to ~~Kiddie~~ League Park in Hopkinsville. I stepped out of the bus and there was one 50 kilo watt bulb hanging over the ticket booth. I knew I was in trouble now.

Coach Diddle got out and walked over to the caretaker and said, "Mister, I'm the coach of the Western Kentucky baseball team and we want to buy tickets for the game tonight."

The caretaker said the team was in Union^{City,} Tennessee playing a double hitter. Coach Diddle grabbed me and wore me a new one right there. He took me to the back of the bus and told me if I opened my mouth again he was going to put me off that bus and I knew him well enough to know he meant it.

A number of times Coach Diddle would tell the bus driver to stop at the first place that sold ice cream. We would get the bus driver to work with us and he would pass something that sold ice cream.

Coach Diddle would say, "Wasn't that an ice cream place we just passed?"

I would say, "No, Coach, they weren't selling ice cream; they were selling potatoes.

We would drive and drive then someone would say, There's one. I would say, "No, there's no ice cream in there. Finally we would get to the town we were playing in and someone would get him an ice cream cone. We'd say, "Coach, we told you we would find you an ice cream place."

2
Dero Downing
College Heights
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

A DIDDLEISM

Coach E. A. Diddle was conducting a campus tour for the benefit of a group of tall high school basketball stars. He was pointing out all the benefits of Western, especially those characteristics which would enhance his chances of recruiting the superior players for the Hilltopper Team. As they walked around the crest of the campus past Cherry Hall and approached the Gordon Wilson Hall (the former library building), he gazed to the facade of stone crowning the top of the classic structure and said, "Boys, we believe in honoring the players who do well on the team. Just look up there." The eyes of the boys followed the pointing finger of Diddle to the top of the white building and beheld the inscriptions of names that had made Hilltopper history. Such stars as Plato, Tennyson, Aristotle, and other notable All American players of the past were listed.

Earl Wassom
548 Brentmoor Drive
Bowling Green, Ky.
Warren County

4
Collected from Mike McDaniel Age 24
Now lives in Louisville
Former Reporter for
College Heights Herald
Once told a story on
Diddle's sayings.

Diddle was a great outdoorsman. He loved to hunt and fish, especially in this part of Kentucky. As the story goes, he had a terrific bird dog named "Rex." A couple of days after a hunting expedition, Diddle discovered that Rex was nowhere to be found. The coach called a special meeting of his basketballers. "Boys," he said, "We ain't gonna sleep, practice or eat until we find old Rex." He then divided up his ~~playex~~ players to explore Warren County for the dog.

As he and Hornback were driving around in search of the dog, his car suffered a flat. The coach jumped out, opened the ~~in~~ trunk to get a jack and suddenly exclaimed, "Rex! Where ~~have~~ the blazes have you been? ~~xx~~ I've been looking all over for you."

Mike McDonald
1164 Adams St.
B.G.

Robert McCarter, Age 20
Elkton, Kentucky
March 1958

Coach Diddle and the Best Coached
Basketball player in the State.

One season Uncle Ed had a basketball player who simply refused to listen to the coaches concerning the type shots he should take. During a game he was shooting the ball from all parts of the court and about forty feet from the goal--between the leg shots being common. The coach jerked him out of the game and gave him a good talking to about the type shots he was taking. The boy was then put back in the game and immediately proceeded to shoot from the center of the floor and just swished the net. Uncle Ed jumped up, threw his towel in the air and shouted: "I'God, best coached player in the state."

Collector: Lynwood Montell
Tompkinsville,
Kentucky

DOCUMENTING SHEET

- I. Informant's name: Fred E. Tudor
Louisville, Ky.
Age and sex: 24 yrs. male
Birthplace: Louisville, Ky.
Race and nationality: caucasian, American
Other communities: Bowling Green 1971-73
Occupation: part-time construction work
Education: two yrs. college
Religion: Baptist

- II. Fred Tudor joined some friends and I for lunch last Friday during which I asked him about Coach Diddle. Information about Coach Diddle was very difficult to find since he has been gone several years. Fred said that this small bit of information was all he knew concerning Coach Diddle.

- III. The origin of this information could not be determined by the informant. Perhaps it was only hear-say.

- IV. This information was a way of letting people know what a truly great coach Mr. Diddle was.

- V-VI. Fred is an avid sports fan and seems to admire coaches with great attributes like Coach Diddle had.

6-2
Mr. Fred E. Tudor, March 1973
Louisville, Ky.-Jefferson County

COACH DIDDLE INFORMATION

"Coach Diddle kept to himself about his team strategy. And when someone would ask him who he considered the best player on the team to be, he would never say. Coach Diddle thought that team morale was better if no one was singled out for special honors."

Barbara Biedenbender
Louisville, Ky.
Jefferson County
Birthplace: Cincinnati, Ohio
Age and sex: 20 yrs. female
Race and nationality: caucasian,
American born
Religion: Catholic

- I. Informant's name: Mr. John W. Oakes
 Address: 724 Pearce Street, Bowling Green, Ky.
 Age: 32 Sex: Male
 Birthplace: Bowling Green, Ky.
 Race: White Nationality: U.S. Citizen- American born
 Other communities in which informant has lived: none
 Occupation: Teacher
 Education: Graduated from Potter College of Arts and Humanities
 Religion: Catholic
 Character of the community: A small college town, farm land, and
 and very few industries.
- II. I collected my material on April 2, 1973 at 9:30 A.M. I was in
 Cherry hall, room 43, at the time. Mr. Oakes is my drawing instruc-
 ter. He was conducting class, however, he took a short pause to
 answer some of my questions. There were several students in my
 class present at the time of our conversation. Mr. Oakes, to my
 knowledge, has never been heard to tell the Diddle jokes.
- III. Mr. Oakes said that one of his friends had told him the stories,
 however, he did not remember who did.
- V. Mr. Oakes is an extremely good instructor. He has a very humorous
 personality, however, he also has a very serious side to him. I
 admire him a great deal and have learned from him.

JOKER

"There was a basketball player who was flunking a geography class. Mr. Diddle was very concerned so he went to confer with the teacher. The teacher told coach Diddle that the boy knew nothing about geography. He said that the boy didn't even know where the capitol of Kentucky was. The teacher said that the basketball player thought Lexington was the capitol. In reply to this, coach Diddle said, "Oh, he's an old country boy and he hasn't traveled; why, he probably has never been to Louisville"

"One day coach Diddle went to see Kelly Thompson for an important favor. He walked into his office and said, "Thompson I realize I'm a big spoke on a little wheel but..."

Ms. Kathleen Anne Clarkson
Hickory Hill Road
Louisville, Ky. - Jefferson County

Coach Bill Powell, 1938
Warren County, Kentucky
Bowling Green

Class "C" text

COACH DIDDLE STORY

Coach Diddle used to take his players out to this training camp during Fall training. He had this dog, Rex, that he would always take out to the practice sessions with him. One day, Rex got lost out there and Coach Diddle told the guys, "No practice today-- We have to find the dog." They spent the whole day looking for Rex and finally found him. Well, the guys thought this was a pretty good idea, so a few days later when they were back out at the camp, they took the dog and tied him up to a tree in the woods so they could get out of practice again to hunt for him.

Tate Nation
2012 Emerson Avenue
Louisville, Ky. - Jefferson Co.

COACH DIDDLE STORY

Coach Diddle didn't like anyone to walk on the grass. Anytime he saw someone walking on the grass he would say something to the effect of the following: Grass is to look at and not for walking on; that's what sidewalks are made for.

Gene Peters
Owensboro, Kentucky
Daviess County,
Owensboro, Kentucky
Age: 19 Sex: Female
Race: White U.S. born
Religion: Protestant

Informant data sheet:

Name: David M. Brown
Address: Jefferson Co. Kentucky
Age: 26
Sex: Male
Birthplace: England
Race: Caucasian
Nationality: American
Occupation: Student
Education: Junior in college
Religion: Fall away Catholic
Character of community: Mass Society

Circumstances:

Well, I got home from school and asked my roommates if they knew any tales. Dave said that he did, so we started to work. He said that he remembered Lefty Wilson (an old man up at the poolhall we use to go to) use to tell a tale about fishing! Dave usually tells some pretty good tales about fishing and hunting, so I decided to use his.

Collector:

Thomas B. Vetter
807 11th Street
Louisville, Ky.
27 years old
Caucasian
Fall away Catholic

TALE

Have you ever heard the story about the giant catfish of Greenriver? One day this old guy was driving down the road, and all at once, the car swerved and ended up in the river. The man got out allright but he had some important papers in the car, so he had to hire some divers to go down and get them. Well, the divers went down and after awhile came up looking scared as ghost. The man asked, "What was wrong?" they said. " that they had seen some catfish down their, big enough to bite a man's head off.

Class "A" text

Annotation: Stith Thompson, Motif Index, B874.1

Giant river catfish, Ladino: Conzemius. BBAE CV1
130f.

11-3
=

Robert S. Vetter, April, 1973
Bowling Green, Ky.
Warren County

Class "B" text

TALE

The story went that E. A. Dittle wasn't satisfied with the support that the Western students were giving the team, so he jumped up on the scoring table and started waving his red towel. A man sitting at the scoring table asked him, "What the hell he thought he was doing?" E. A. Dittle said, "Look mister, if you had your name on this building you could do the same thing I'm doing."

Thomas B. Vetter
11th Street
Bowling Green, Ky.
Warren County

E.A. Diddle Story

10 April 1973

Walter Butler

During my freshman year at Western Kentucky University, E.A. Diddle who was head basketball coach at the time was sitting in his box seat, and the game was not going in Western's favor so Coach Diddle started his famous cheer to get the student body more interested in the game, when he was finished, he made the statement, " My dog Blue can make more noise than that".

So after the second half started here came Coach Diddle with his dog and paraded around the playing floor waving his red towel and urging the crowd to join him, well the crowd joined in to make one of the loudest cheers I've ever heard.

Source: Personal experience

I. Personal data on informant:

- A. Name: Madoline Drake
B. Address: Warren County, Kentucky
C. Age: 58 Sex: Female
D. Race: Caucasian
E. Communities in which informant has lived: Kentucky and Tennessee.
F. Travel: Throughout the United States.
G. Occupation: Dorm director.
H. Education: College degree.
I. Religion: Christian (?)
J. Character of community: Small college town.

II. I was working at the desk in the dorm and Mrs. Drake came out to talk. I had not been able to find any students who knew stories of Coach Diddle so I asked her.

III. Mrs. Drake knew several stories that she had read from the school news paper.

IV. Mrs. Drake gave no explanation of meaning.

V. Mrs. Drake is a well educated woman and does not seem to use folklore frequently.

Mrs. Madoline Drake

1914 (year of birth)

Springfield, Tennessee (but is

now living in Bowling Green, Ky.)

Once one of Coach Diddle's favorite restaurants baked him a pie and when he came to pick it up, they asked if he wanted it cut into four or six pieces. He said, "Four, I don't think I can eat six."

Ann Howell

Columbia, Missouri

Springfield, Missouri

20 Female

Caucasian

- I. Informant's name: James A. Welker, Jr.
Address: Logan County, Kentucky
Age: 22 Sex: Male
Birthplace: Russellville, Kentucky
Race: Caucasian
Significant travel: New England, Western United States
Occupation: Student
Education: High School & College
Religion: Disciples of Christ
Character of the Community: Agricultural and Industrial
- II. The item was collected around the late part of the afternoon after the informant came in from classes at Western. The informant is the collector's husband. No other people were present when the item was collected. The informant had heard the story from his father many years ago.
- III. The informant could no remember exactly the first date upon which he had heard the story. He had heard it from his father when he was in high school. There were many stories relating to Mr. Diddle that were told in the same evening.
- IV. The informant said that most of the legends which have been passed around are essentially true. Of course, through many translations, they have often been spiced up a bit. They tell quite a lot about the man who was loved by everyone who knew him at Western.
- V. The collector feels that the informant has quite an outgoing personality and takes much pleasure in telling funny or amusing anecdotes about people such as Ed Diddle. He recognizes such stories as being items of folklore, in this particular case, legends.
- VI. None

16-2
Mr. Jim Welker, Jr.
Russellville, Ky.
Logan County

Legend About Ed Diddle

"Mr. Diddle was getting pretty old at the time this happened. He decided that he'd go hunting and take his old coon dog. Well, he put the dog in the trunk of the car. Something came up and the trip was put off for a while. After a day, he started wondering where the dog went. All the neighbors and friends put on a search for the dog, but he was nowhere to be found. After another day, Mr. Diddle went to the car to get something out of the trunk and out hopped the old dog. Diddle said, "Well, I wondered where you'd been hiding!"

Susan Welker
West Seventh St.
Russellville, Ky.
Born in Jackson, Tenn.
Age: 21 Sex: Female
American White
Baptist

Informant: Jerry Potter

Age: 25

Sex: Male

Religion: Unknown

Home: Paintsville, Ky.

Upon returning from a basketball scouting trip from Nashville, Tennessee, the late coach Ed Diddle was reported to have fallen asleep behind the wheel of a passenger car, and crossed the center line of the highway. He struck an oncoming vehicle, killing one woman occupant of the car. The blame, however, was not placed on Diddle, but on a member of his staff covering for him.

Informee: Tim Hunter

Date: October 20, 1972

My Informant:

Coach Jim Richards
 Bowling Green, Ky. Warren County
 36 Male
 Lebanon, Ky.
 Cacausia
 Garland, Ky. Birth-21
 Bowling Green 1 Yr. Auburn, Ky. 3 Yrs.
 Glasgow, Ky. 5 Yrs.
 Bowling Green 4 Yrs. so far
 Majors cities and a lot of little towns East of Mississippi.
 Head Basketball coach at WKU
 Masters + 40 hours above
 Methodist

I collected the story on Oct. 24, at 11:00 AM in his office with just the two of us. I went in to ask him about Coach Diddle because I knew he knew some tales since he used the stories in our basketball class. I had Coach Richards for basketball coaching.

Coach Richards heard the stories and witness most of the things by living in the house of basketball players that Diddle owned.

In my opinion Coach Richards is a very likable person that knows what he is doing. He knows the stories of Diddle because he uses them all the time.

18-2
Coach Jim Richards
Bowling Green, Ky. Warren
36 Male
Bebannon, Ky.
Cacausia
Garland, Ky. Birth- 21
Bowling Green 1 Yr.
Auburn, Ky. 3 Yrs.
Glas cow, Ky. 5 Yrs.
Bowling Green 4 Yrs so far
Major cities and a lot of little towns east of the Mississippi
Head basketball coach WKU
Masters + 40 hours.
Methodist

While playing at the armory in Louisville during the Ohio Valley tour. the players stayed and dress out at the Ky. Hotel and walked to the armory. As they can down through the elevator and cross the lobby it was raining hard. But as they got ready to go out it stopped. As Diddle was going out, two Catholic priests started talking to him and followed him out. Mr Diddle was walking on the outside part on the sidewalk while the priests walked near the hotel. As they were waiting for the light to change a cab drove by and splashed water all over Mr. Diddle. Well, he got mad and turn to the priests and said, "Did you SOBs see what that gentleman did to me!" Instead of saying Did you gentlemen see what that SOB did to me.

Krista Gaddis
Hanson, Ky.
Muhlenberg County
20 Female
Cacusia
Baptist

No documentation found

I. Personal data on informant:

Informant's name: Larry Gumm
 Address: Greensburg, Ky. - Green Co.
 Age: 36 Sex: Male
 Birthplace: Green Co., Ky.
 Race, nationality or ethnic background: White, Irish
 Other communities in which informant has lived: Bowling Green, Ky. 1954-1958
 Significant travel: Southeastern U. S. and Bahama Islands
 Occupation: Teacher and Coach
 Education: Masters Degree plus 6 hours
 Religion: Baptist
 Character of the community: Rural, farming

II. Description of circumstances under which item was collected:

At a recent dinner party given for our local football team and coaches I was talking to Mr. Gumm about his college days at Western. Somehow the subject of Mr. Diddle came up and Mr. Gumm and several other people who were Western graduates began telling stories they had heard about him. From these stories I picked one that I liked and had never heard before. Although Mr. Gumm says that he has probably repeated the story several times I have never heard him do so.

III. Informant's description of circumstances under which he first heard the item:

According to Mr. Gumm he first heard this story in 1957 while he and several other athletes (he played baseball at Western) were chatting about sports in the snack bar at Western. He does not remember precisely who told him or even who was present but he says tales about Mr. Diddle were frequently told among athletes at that time. Since his college days Mr. Gumm has occasionally repeated this story to others, particularly those associated with athletics.

IV. Informant's explanation of meaning of item and appraisal of its function:

Mr. Gumm said he did not know if this tale was true or not but that it could be true. He further stated that he sometimes thought Mr. Diddle deliberately did things in order to preserve his image of being forgetful.

V. Collector's appraisal of informant's personality; general use of folklore; description of other genres of folklore known to the informant:

I do not know Mr. Gumm very well but he seems to be a rather quiet, reserved person. The few times I have been around him I have noticed that

he often tells tales concerning athletics, players, or coaches. I have also heard him use some of the folk expressions of the area on occasion.

VI. Pertinent information which has not been included elsewhere: None

Mr. Larry Gumm
 October, 1972
 Greensburg, Ky.
 Green County

Class "C" text

TALE

It seems that Mr. Diddle had been hunting with his favorite bird dog and when he went to feed him the next morning the dog was gone. Mr. Diddle gathered all the basketball players together and they scoured the campus looking for the dog. Finally, three days later Coach Diddle opened the trunk of his car to get something out and there lay the poor dog almost starved to death.

S. Thompson - J2022

Della Curnutte
 Greensburg, Ky.
 Huron, South Dakota
 37-Female
 White - Anglo-saxon
 Catholic

DOCUMENTING SHEET

I. Personal data on informant

Informant name: Dave Rabolds

Address: 426 E. Main St.

Age: 48 Sex Male

Birthplace: Bowling green, Ky.

Race: Caucasian

Occupation: Owns a mens clothing store

Education: B S degree from W.K.U.

Religion: Presbyterian

II. Conditions in which item was collected: Collected at the store (Rabolds) People present were the employees of the store.

III. Where the informant first heard the item:

Told to him by Bob Kyle they were on a fishing trip.

IV. Informant's explanation of meaning of item:

It was told as a joke on Coach ED Diddle.

V. Collectors appraisal of informant's personality

VI. Pertinent information not included in above information

VII. Exact transscription of item being collected :
Coach Ed Diddle had been asking around to see if anyone had seen his birddog. He had looked for the dog all over campus, he had even put ads in the school paper. About three days had passed and the coach went out to his car to look for something ,and open his trunk and ~~for~~ found his dog in his trunk. He had started to go hunting a couple of days ago put his dog in the trunk then decided not to go, and forgot about his dog. Hppy to say that the coache@s dog didn't die but he was very hungry.

VIII. Annotation:

IX. Personal Data o n.collector:

Stephen Phillips
1514 Newton
Bowling Green, Ky.
20 Male
Caucasion
None

I. Personal data on informant:

Informant's name: Coach Jerry Bean
Address: Mall Apts. Bowling Green, Kentucky
Age: 33 Sex: M
Birthplace: Webster County, Nebraska
Race, nationality or ethnic background: white Anglo-Saxon
Other communities in which informant has lived: Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Kentucky
Significant travel: U.S.
Occupation: track coach at WKU
Education: MA
Religion: Protestant
Character of community: city

II. Description of circumstances under which item was collected.

Coach Bean and I use to be neighbors so I called him on the phone to obtain a story about Coach Diddle. Where we use to live there lived three coaches so I've heard lots of trivia about the athletic department at WKU.

III. Informant's description of circumstances under which he first heard item.

Coach Bean who has only been in Kentucky for two years said Coach Ralph Baker told him these stories. Coach Baker is the assistant basketball coach at WKU. I know Coach Baker personally and have heard him tell tales of Coach Diddle. The best stories I've heard on Diddle are from former pro-ball player Wayne Chapman but he lives elsewhere now.

IV. Informant's explanation of meaning of item.

Jerry didn't explain his stories because they are self explanatory.

Mr. Jerry Bean
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Class "A" text

Legend

"Coach Diddle once told a certain player that he was the 15th player on a 15 man team and the team was last in the conference so that made him the worst player in the conference."

Mrs. Terry Durham Mills
Carriage Hill Apts., Bowling Green, Ky.
Green County, Ky.
22 Female
white Anglo-Saxon
Presbyterian

24-3
Mr. Jerry Bean
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Class "A" text

Legend

"Coach Diddle use to yell at the boys on campus who walked on the grass to get off. But if the trespasser was a pretty coed, he'd walk out on the grass and put his arm around her and tell her that she should be walking on the sidewalk and not the grass."

Mrs. Terry Durham Mills
Carriage Hill Apts., Bowling Green, Ky.
Green County, Kentucky
22 Female
white Anglo-Saxon
Presbyterian

- I. Informant: Jane Drennan
Address: Knox Manor, E-2
Age: 24
Sex: F
Birthplace: Hodgenville, Ky.
Race: Caucasian
Other Communities: Hodgenville, Ky.
Significant travel: Europe
Occupation: Music teacher
Religion: Methodist
Character of community: college town
- II. Collected in apartment in afternoon. Relationship-roommate
- III. First heard item on W.K.U. campus
- V. Personality-friendly, warm.
- VII. Tale
- VIII. None

28-2
Miss Jane Drennan
Bowling Green, Ky.
Warren County
October 23, 1972

TALE
COACH DIDDLE

"One of the tales I've heard about Coach Diddle is that he used to tell all the kids not to walk on the grass on campus because it ruined all the work done by the maintenance men. He used to see people walking along on the grass and tell them to please use the sidewalk and help take care of their school. He was a good man."

Ruthmarie Jana
Bowling Green, Ky.
Warren County
October 23, 1972

Diana Barnhart
Daviness County, Kentucky
Age: 19, Sex: Female
Birthplace: Robinson, Illinois
Race: Caucasian
Other communities in which informant has lived: Oblong, Illinois
and Owensboro, Kentucky
Significant travel: New Jersey, New York, Louisiana
Education: Graduated from Owensboro Senior High School in 1970
and is a junior at Western Kentucky University
Character of the community: It is business orientated.

Diana Barnhart lives next door to me in Gilbert Hall. We were in the study room but we were working on homecoming decorations. Five other persons were present at the time. I wrote the tale down while she said it. I have not heard the informant use this tale before but she said she had told this particular tale to many other people.

The informant heard this tale her freshman year at Western Kentucky University. It was told to her by one of her high school teachers. She remembers him using the tale only when he told it to her.

The informant thought highly of this tale because she said it held great truth. Diana has been heard to use many examples of folklore. Diana has a great personality and is very outgoing and enjoys being the leader. She likes to make up her own sayings.

Diana Barnhart
Daviess County, Kentucky
November, 1952

TALE

Coach Diddle used to say, "Not to walk on the grass that
sidewalks were made to walk on and grass was made to look at."

(Not found in Aarne-Thompson)

Pat Moss
Muhlenberg County, Ky.
Muhlenberg County, Ky.
Age: 20, Sex: Female
Race: Caucasian
Religion: Methodist

- I. Informant's name: David A. Luckey
Address: 1124 Adams St., Warren Co, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Birthplace: Ft. Hood, Texas
Age: 21
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
Other communities in which lived: Frankfurt, Munich, Germany,
Significant travel: Honolulu, Hawaii, Wash.D.C., Ft.Knox, Ky,
Occupation: Student Rock Island, Ill., Albuquerque, N.M. etc...
Education: Grammar school, High School, Undergraduate work in Coll.
Religion: Baptist.
- II. Item was collected at the informant's residence, around 8:30 p.m., Sunday, October 22, 1972, with two other persons present. The informant's relationship with the collector: roommate. The item was elicited by answering a direct question following discussion of the subject of Edgar Allen Diddle.
- III. The informant did not know the circumstances under which he first heard the item. However he believed he heard or read the item by way of the news media at the time of Diddle's death.
- IV. Collector's appraisal of informant's personality: Informant was anxious to aid the collector in any way. His personality was sincere (How can anyone appraise one's personality???) .
- V. Being a student of Western Kentucky University, the informant was acquainted with Diddle's actions indirectly. Although he never personally met Mr. Diddle, the informant was a student at this university when Mr. Diddle was alive, consequently has heard much about the man who has become a legend.
Coach Ed Diddle was notoriously known for his malapropism.

VI. Transcription of item collected:

While Diddle was coaching, his team went to the National Invitational Tournament in New York. Diddle was instructing his players about how they should act and said to them, "Be courteous, be sportsmen and above all be sanitation."

- VII. Collectors name: Winstead K. Nichols, Jr.
Home address: 1016 Pawnee Drive, Elizabethtown, Ky.
Local address: 1124 Adams Street, Bowling Green, Ky.
Age: 21
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
Religion: Roman Catholic.

Winstead K. Nichols, Jr.
Bowling Green, Kentucky



joe creason

3/23/73

C-J

ONE LAST Ed Diddle story before another high school and college basketball season is salted away in the record books. (With playoffs and all, the pros still will be playing in mid-summer, it seems).

Shortly after World War II, Mr. Diddle's fine Western Kentucky University teams began making regular visits to New York to play in Madison Square Garden.

On one such trip, Bob Gillespie, a member of the Western squad, called Mr. Diddle's attention to a matter that hadn't crossed his mind.

The Western team was housed on the same floor of a hotel near the Garden. Noting that the elevator was too small for the entire entourage to get aboard at the same time, Gillespie posed a ticklish question.

"Coach, this elevator is awful small," he pointed out. "If this hotel catches on fire, how are all of us gonna get out of here?"

Mr. Diddle didn't have an immediate answer, but it was apparent that he was working on one. For as soon as the play-

ers were in their rooms, he had the student manager assemble the entire group in the hallway for an announcement of great urgency.

"Boys," he spoke to them in his somewhat lispy voice, "just in case this place catches on fire, I want you regulars to take the elevator and you scrubs take the stairs!"