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UA1B2/1 A History of Western Kentucky University: Inspired by Oral Accounts

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A History of Western Kentucky University:

Inspired by Oral Accounts

Lydia N. Kullman
Professor McMichael
History and the Internet
Due: 2/23/04
Western Kentucky University grew out of Kentucky’s need for more public education. Kentucky’s public schools in the early twentieth century desperately needed more qualified teachers. Additionally, other problem had arisen. The teacher themselves needed to be educated. Two men set out to form the early beginnings of what later became the university that today has affected so many of generations of Kentuckians.

The influence on the State Superintendent James H. Fuqua into building two State Normal School, one in Richmond and one in Bowling Green, was catalyzed by Henry Hardin Cherry and his older brother Thomas Crittenden. Cherry was already running the private Southern Normal School and Bowling Green Business College. He was automatically made president of the state funded normal school. Classes began January 17, 1907. To keep enrollment up and continue supplying the campus’ material needs, Cherry strove to advertise the school in the most aggressive ways. He put out advertisements of the institution and kept the tuition at a low cost so the poorer families could have an education. “Only four of the more than seven hundred students enrolled in the spring of 1907 had high school diplomas; most of them had done no high school level work.”1 He even used two of his unsuccessful tries at the Democratic candidacy for governor to improve Western’s reputation. Cherry knew how organize and delegate responsibility to those most capable near and far: Mattie McLean, his secretary; Gordon Wilson, English dept. head and the first alumni of WKU to be faculty; Franz Strahm, music teacher from Germany; L. T. Smith, active in directing athletics; and others along the way as the campus grew.

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1 Lowell H. Harrison, Western Kentucky University (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1987).
Western grew to include the Teacher’s College for those studying to teach; for those not planning to teach, Potter College (1911) was available for women while Ogden College (1927) was open to educate the men to study other four-year degrees. The growth of Western did not stop in 1937 when Cherry died. His legacy is written in more than just the concrete that the Western students stand on today. It is carried in the hearts and memories of millions of lives that experience the fruits of his labor and joined in that labor to continue the dream that Western Kentucky University was to Cherry and his followers.

Mayron Justis Corkrel, a graduate from 1945, was benefited by Western’s teaching program. She conducted some classes while substituting for teachers during her schooling at WKU. “My big sister had been to Western so she came [with her father] to protect me [a country gal] on my first registration day where we had to wait in all those long lines.” Corkrel lived in Potter Hall (1920), an all women’s dormitory. She found work on campus as a waitress in the cafeteria diner. Corkrel met with her boss at work, a dietician, Ms. Lynn, aka “Class Sergeant,” who “barked and scared everybody to death.” She worked by waiting tables for one dollar a week and received free food. There were three meals a day every day except for Sunday when she served only twice. “Our uniforms at work were supposed to be white, crisp, and sharp! My uniform was not starched enough for Ms. Lynn when I came into work the first couple of days.”

“During the war [WWII] hoses were not available, and then nylon came along [she sighs off handedly], but we used leg make up, a liquid make up, where you’d start at the bottom and work your way up. It took time and effort to get it smooth and to cover
the back of your legs, but in the summer time as you perspired you had these streaks, no runs, down your leg. [She laughs with her old friend from school].”

“When Ethel and I were freshmen we had ‘Tea with the President’ at the Kentucky Building one afternoon. We were going and we only had but one pair of hose between us, and so we went separately. We were always exchanging clothes.” Dress for young ladies was important for them.

Corkrel compares how differently times have changed. “There were very few cars, so on big Saturday nights we walked around ‘The Square’ downtown. The Drug store Pierceton’s at the corner of Main and College was popular because it was air-conditioned. Martinee Harlan, a new friend that I had met on campus, bought me frosted malt for ten cents since I couldn’t afford it and I had never had one before. I was just a confused country kid.” Corkrel did not stay that way for long. Soon she was right at home with the school and her new friends in what started her life of teaching outside of her old country one.

Her interest in becoming a teacher was nurtured by those teachers who continue to inspire her today. “Ms. Travelstan [who taught music] was always leading the singing at chapel every week. And her slip was always showing, whether she was sitting or what somehow that slip was always seen. She was a real, real tough gal, cause she was a widow raising a couple of boys. Back then there was an unwritten agreement that if a teacher was not in class for the first ten minutes than we would leave. But not Ms. Travelstan, ‘If I’m not here, I have a reason and you will wait.’ And I don’t think she was ever late. She had a heart for you. She was here to try to help you accomplish something and be somebody.” Corkrel still remembers where she was when President
Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. Her history club was having their meeting. Ms. Roberson, the club’s faculty sponsor “came in and over in the corner of the room there was a flag, and she took it out of its base, and she said, ‘If there’s ever a time to bring out Old Glory it’s now.’ She put that front and center and we had our meeting.” Corkrel continued, “The teachers took such a personal interest in us. That’s the way it should be. Western is a school, university that we should all be really proud of.”

Her old friend and roommate, Ethel Gipson Rector, agrees. She also started in her sophomore year working on campus waiting tables. “I was a little trembly about the stories of Ms. Lynn.” She remembers her first day at the diner. “Ms. Lynn announced, ‘Well, we have a new experienced waitress joining us, so I’m going to give her the football boys table.’ But she was supportive when they acted up. Such a thing as throwing sweet potatoes and things like that.” Rector and Corkrel worked there until they graduated and lived in Potter Hall until the cadets came, and they were forced to move off campus. “We didn’t worry about it too much because it was about the war, and we had to make the sacrifice.” The two women moved into a room on Center Street with two other roommates.

Like Corkrel, Rector also had favorite teachers. “I had Dr. Gordon Wilson [English professor] as my first teacher and took almost every class under him. In the library, studying for history, Ms. Eggbird would come in and haul books out of the stacks, and put them on my table. We used to say before she got in class that if we dropped our pencil that we would lose ten years of history. She’d tell us what to use [in the text books] and tell us where, and so we’d better look at them or she might ask about

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2 Corkrel, Mayron Justis, interviewed by Sue Lynn Stone of the WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky 18 September 1999.
them during the next class. Dr. Garrett coming to chapel (remembering that all freshmen had to go to chapel) he would read and tell us about current events including the war.”

The entertainment for the student included keeping up with the sports teams as best they could, even when the teams were playing away. “We didn’t have any television then, and we had very poor radios, and we would hold our ears right up against the radio when they were playing. We would cry and scream and everything. ‘Come on Boys! Come on Boys!’ They did have good teams.”

“My father thought high school was all that we could do, but due to my hardheadedness that I was to come [to Western]. I loved every day of it. I loved the tests, the place, and I realized what it did for me. My son graduated here in 1980 and I was very proud.”

Western’s impact on these lives remains vividly in not only that generation, but also in each thereafter. Western has been a well-wished dream into a productive and ever developing reality. As Western continues to expand, so will its living memories, and the legacies will climb to fantastic heights. If only Cherry could see Western now from what he initiated almost a century ago.

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3 Rector, Ethel Gipson, interviewed by Sue Lynn Stone of the WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky 18 September 1999.
Revised Interview Questionnaire

State interviewer’s name and interviewee’s name (alumni) and their graduation year.

State the place, date, and time of the interview. State the interview’s purpose and get consent to use the interview for purposes specified on the tape.

1. Where are you from? Were you a first college generation student in your family?
2. Why did you choose to attend Western Kentucky University?
3. What was your major(s) and/or minor? Did you switch your major(s) and/or minor(s)? Why?
4. Did you live off campus or on campus or both? Where? Why?

A) What are your memories of that dorm life or off campus life? For example curfews, community life, any lifetime relationships.

B) What traditions on campus do you remember participating in?

C) Please share your most prominent memories of your student life at WKU.

5. During your time as a WKU student did you work on campus or off campus or both? If so in detail, what job did you hold? When? What was it like? Did it affect your future career?

6. What was life like on campus? Examples like what did you do for fun, what did students wear, where and what did you eat on campus?

7. What classes or faculty were most memorable? Why?
8. Were you involved in any organizations and/or clubs, Greek societies and/or athletic teams? What was your involvement? Were you a big fan of sports?

9. Were there any major events or issues in the country, on campus, and/or around the world that affected you while you were a student?

10. How did WKU affect your life after graduation?
Oral History of Western

Gary Ransdell
Graduate 1973 Major Mass Communications Public Relations '74 Masters Public Service/Public Administration

He resided in Barnes Campbell room 715. After he married Julie Ransdell they moved to house where SKyPAC parking lot is today. They paid a rent of around ninety-seven dollars a month. President Ransdell’s mentor as a student at WKU was a now retired faculty member John Milton. He also held a few jobs at WKU as a writer for the Herald and a lab assistant in the Biology Department. He once tried to save a doomed lab rabbit from certain death, and took it home as a house pet to Julie. For more exciting stories about Ransdell’s hero days as a student at WKU please see to the cassette tape in the WKU's Archives at the Kentucky Building.

Tape section 76-88 around a minute and four seconds
“Athletics traditions . . . . be neat if.”
Interview by Lydia Kullman given 3/30/04

Anna Jo Cook Pickens and Betty Jo Cook Gibson "The Famous Cook Twins"
Graduates 1948 Teacher degrees

The girls graduated from London High at sixteen and were already very popular. E. A. Diddle recruited the girls who originally were planning on going to U of K. They were charmed by Western with one visit and forgot about U of K completely. They were the first cheerleaders to receive full athletic scholarships to Western. Their talent was a boost for the basketball showmanship during World War II. Dr. Gordon Wilson of the English Department was their favorite teacher. The twins’ guardian, Diddle, took care of them through their education and celebrity. One of the most memorable events of their college days was performing a halftime show at Madison Square Gardens in 1944. These magnificent ladies also have a tape at the WKU Archives on their shared memories of Western. Here is an excerpt about their jingle at the beginning and ending of their weekly radio show.

Tape section 373-383 around 45 seconds
“Hello . . . Goodbye . . . hmm do hmm . . . (omit marvelous)”
Tape is in the Cook Twins scrapbook

Jean Payne Tinsley
Graduate 1944 Major in Music
Tinsley came to WKU from Glasgow for its excellent music and drama departments. Tinsley was a vocalist in a dance band at high school known as “Baby J. Payne.” Most of the friends she had were already attending WKU or going there. It made the choice of going to Western easy with her “brothers” who “were right there to defend me” if she needed help. She lived in West Hall (Schneider Hall) during her first year and fondly remembers her house mother and the house rules. She describes on tape a forbidden excursion out of her dorm after hours. Tinsley also recalled the time when Pearl Harbor made everyone on campus question their feeling of safety and the future. Her opinion of Coach Diddle was summed in one word: “flirt!”

Tape section 53-68
“One time in the 1st year . . . (omit the excuse me part) . . . and wanted to do the right thing.”
Tape is in an oral history box UA94.

Sandra Sue Pruitt Miller
Graduate 1968 Major in Library Science

Miller went to WKU because it was so close to her home in Simpson County near Bowling Green. She has originally went to study elementary education, but when she “started doing [her] practice teaching . . . [she] want the books” not the children. She worked in the library when it moved from Gordon Wilson Hall to the Big Red Barn. While helping with the move in the summer of ’66 the girls were allowed to wear jeans. Her story of the dress code of the times and her opinions and experiences of WKU’s classes are on the tape excerpt.

Tape section 117-125
“Going back to Chapel . . . good hour of sleep.”
Tape section 143-154
“My music education class . . . you did not wear those to class.”
Tape is in an oral history box UA94.
Jean Payne  '44 grad.  tape interview Sept. 15, 1999

Wilma Jenkins '48 grad

Addams '48 grad

Maylon Justis

Cockrell '45 grad  and Ethel Gipson Rector

Sandra Sue Pruitt Miller  '68 grad. tape interview Nov. 15, 1999

Vernon A. Stone (WKSC 1951)
Oral History interview, Sept. 21, 2001
UA Cass #173

Harriet Downing  8/23/2000
UA Cass #170

Virginia Robertson Oral history
Sept. 9, 2000
UA Cass #171

WKU Archives 68/8321
Department of History (done 70's)
Oral History Project Interviews
Hughes J. Marshall  9/25/80
Interview transcript by Lee Robertson
MSS Oral History Project - History Dept. - WKU Lowe N. Harrison
1991-1999

Box 4, Folder 2 Boeckmann, Rick in Aug. 3, 1998 paper only

Box 11 Folder 5 Depo Goodman Downing paper, photo, tape Sept. 23 '96
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<td>Louise Rice paper, tape, photo</td>
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Jean Payne Tinsley  (Grad of '49)  Sept 18, 1989

What you remember most

...will I can tell you that for a # of yrs. I think I have finally overcome it. Every fall of the year I would get
waves of nostalgia. I quit the reason was bc I loved being @ Western so much. They were 4 of the happiest yrs. of my life and every fall the excitement of picking up and
staying for those four yrs. was wonderful.

I was born and raised in Glasgow. It was a tossup bt
"drama and music. But I decided I really wanted to major
in music. The times were when the music department of
W was one of the best music departments anywhere. And why

Tinsley

The main attraction was:

My senior yr. in Glasgow I was a vocalist in dance
band that was made up of W music majors led by a
gentleman who was from my hometown. And that was
kinda nice to arrive w/ every body already knowing who

1st yrs. West Hall
suites w/2 room + a bathroom
great happy room comb.

$b$ have been singing since she was four yrs. old.

deb but as Baby S. Payne

&
Rules were strict as parents wanted no boys in room hours for visits.

Ben and I slipped out of the dorms. I’ve never been so terrified in my life. The security officer was named Aubrey, I knew him on campus. I got back to my dorm room and was so relieved. Nowadays I can’t imagine myself being so innocent.

We ate at Potter for 3 meals a day.

There was a bit of celebrity being in the band. Never got to be called Charotte.

Dated Brent Logan from band (vocalist). Saxophone husband Sam Tinsley.

“When the war began the men just disappeared from W. Every semester you’d come back and there would be more and more of the boys that you knew were gone. Sam had a special deformity. He’s trumpet husband 54 yrs.”
Tinsley

2 bands @ Western
Red + Gray Band
Glasgow
Directory \( \rightarrow \) Roy Holman \( \rightarrow \) drums

- dances held @ the gym
- the football games were social
- frats & sororities were not official or in book
  1) Barrens
  2) 13 Others

1) Rock House
2) Goal Post
3) 2 story house of single rooms

Mr. Heart Teacher (Music)
Ms. Clayton (French)

Ms. Shannon (Music)
Head of Dept. Kind +

Mr. Petite
Hated girls. Did not like

Ms. Richards?
Heard about Pearl Harbour
Pres. Roos. about radio announcement in Cherry Hall
killed their feelings about safety + future

Cadets on Campus singing on campus marching cadence
Balloons 2 KY baby bomb

3rd time on campus sugar shortage? Walking everywhere
movies + dinners Conversation!
University Inn times 2 sacrifices were accepted

Tinsley

Didn't "grad. w/ June class waited till Aug. B/c she
had screwed up" small class so there wasn't as much
hype for presentation. (Some scholastic honors to some members)

Coach Diddle was a flirt! With all the girls

-Campus Beauty - Beauty one year
"straight A's in campus activities"
U4 94 Sept. 17, 1989 interview Cockrell & Reeter

Life @ WKU in 1940's (45 yard)

Mayrene Co.
1942 began from Caneville High School
summer came to WKU to be a teacher (needed)
- students would sub for absent teachers in grades/units
conducted class even
older sister had been @ WKU
- registration long lines came w/ big sis & dad for
  "protection"
- lived in Potter Hall (+ West Hall)
- worked in canteen @ WKU
- never been out of the county
- met w/ dietician Ms. Lynn ("class sargent" barked
  and scared every body to death)

Cockrell & Reeter
- worked @ waiting tables 3 meal a day (Sun, 2 meals)
- $1/oper wk. for board & food
- 25c an hour for work
- cars w/ few

Fun
- Saturday night walked around "the square" ?
  Downtown

Friend of Martinez Harlan (Grayson Co.)
- Ray the preiser's corner of Main + college
  "air conditioned" popular in comfort (08 frosted milk)

Uniform @ work (Sun) "white crisp and sharp"
  lady wanted them "starched"
Cockrell & Reiter

- worked at circulation desk during first year
- changed mind on jobs to waiting table for extra meals pay on 2nd yrs.
- worked at Mom CA in summers and weekends
- "I was a little trembly about the stories of Ms. Lynn.

Ms. Lynn: "Well, we have a new experienced waitress joining us, so I'm going to give her the football boys' table. She was always supportive when they acted up. And things as throwing sweet potatoes and things like that."

Cockrell & Reiter

- Worked there until she graduated and after the cadettes came and moved off campus
- Women we moved out so that cadettes could have the rooms. "We didn't worry about it too much b/c it was about the war and we had to make the sacrifice. So we felt that that was what we had to do."

- They both room on Center Street as roommates w/three or four bedrooms @ the boarding house
- "remember praying every night and on Sun, singing the liturgy in their waitress uniform"

Dr. Gideon Wilson 1st class teacher

Bible class the class she could take under him, except
"Chooch" liked to talk about birding.

"In library studying for history, Ms. E. would come in and haul books out of the shelves, and put them on my table. We used to say before she got in class that if we dropped our pencils that we would lose ten yrs of history. She'd tell us what to use [in the textbook] and tell us where and so we'd better ask [the teacher] or she might ask about them during the next class.

"Dr. Garrett coming to chapel, remember that freshman all had to go to chapel? He would read and tell us about current events including the war."
Ethel

"My father thought high school was all that we could do, but due to my hard-headedness that was to come true. I loved every day of it; I loved the test, the place and I realized what it did for me. My son grad here in ’80 and I was very proud.

Mayron (TUH)

"During war, hoses were not available, and nylon came along. We used leg make-up, a liquid make-up, where you'd start at the bottom and work your way up time and get it smooth and to cover the back of your legs, but in the summer time as you perspired you had these streaks, no runs, down your leg."

³ Tea w/ President ² KU Building  Sunday Afternoon for freshmen  ²

Crockett (TUH)

³ "Ethel & I were aging and we only had one pair of hose b/t us, and so we went separately. We were always exchange clothes."

Teachers

³ Ms. Travelston (music) "Always lead the singing @ chapel every wk. Her slip was always showing, whether she was sitting or what, some how that slip was always seen. She was a real tall tough gal, cause she was a widow raising a couple of boys. There was an unwritten agreement back then that if a teacher was not in class for the first 10 min then we would leave."

³ Ms. Travis - "If I'm not here, I have a reason and you will wait. I don't think she was ever late."

³
"She had a heart for you she was here to help you accomplish something and be some body."

"The day Fdr Roosevelt died April 12, 1945 History was having a meeting Mr. Roberson (sponsor) "She came in and over in the corner of the room there was a flag and she took it out of its case and she said, 'If there's ever a time to bring our Old Glory it's now.' She put that front and center and we had our meeting."

"The teachers took such a personal interest in us. That's the way it should be. WKU is a school/ university that we should all be really proud of."
"My desire was always to go to Western, but my mother did not want me to go. She did not like the change of girls from W. She thought that all the girls that came to W. change and some of the change that she saw she didn't like."

Louisburg home town

"Someone had dropped out and already paid their tuition, so they let me use that tuition to start with."

"2 of my girl friends + I stayed at a house coopered in the building out 12th St. close to the Barn. That yr we just walked ourselves to death, there was no bus."

"I did pass my classes, but I wasn't a brain. I did have a good time."

"I never had any money (other than the necessities), but I bought a coat, b/c that was not in the budget."

"Once you got 2 yrs. of college you could teach, if you were lucky you got school seats (jobs)."

"I almost could go cause you had to have money to register."

She borrowed money from a friend $25

"Tip tops -> restaurant "Boys lived up stairs @ Tip tops."

" Football

" Work there"
Adkins

"Scared to death about passing that I wouldn't even eat." took a 12 hour break n 35 mated 57 yrs. (Mrs. Atkins)

"Then I took French where I met my husband. Every day he would walk me up the hill.

Hed Di Grise (Dad) 1937 flood

Most teachers taught I came back in Man came

I had a job at the telephone office up in Van Meter Hall, 1937 flood. I loved that job, didn't know how but I learned. (3)

Adkins

"Ms. Hatte was also very nice. I couldn't get all of my credits in, and we had credits not quites. I had 5 credits. I could take the things I need, come back in April, and then graduate.

"We (her husband and her) ended up staying in the dorm and we could always smell the bread. It was the niceing about it. You could have all you wanted to eat what you wanted. But you know that we just got to where we just could stand the smell the yeast smell.

"In '40 Howard graduated but I didn't come back. Cause we felt like we would like have war. So Howard soon went"
Adkins

into the service. He had applied for a teacher’s position. He wanted to take welding. We had our 2nd WWII. He was sent over seas in a special division - the Red Baron division in Japan. He came back when the war was over. He found out someone was need to teach Welding in Wisconsin. He went there and taught for 10 yrs. We had 2 children and I had to get my degree before we had anyone. So, in 1948, I rolled in to the University Housing near the power plant. We rode the train from Wisconsin to Chicago with the two little boys. Mother say she’d take care of the boys while I finished school. I had to commute in '48 from Mother’s and it wasn’t that far. I laid down 5 credits during that summer. And I was just tickled to death to go thru the line and sit up there in the row with

Adkins

that little hat on. We left Madison, WI during Howard's 2nd yr. of teaching welding. "It was very unusual. We Howard did not have an engineering degree."
Cook twins tape

Wore noticed @ high school tournament (24,000 people)
(London High School)
(cheers from London)

Diddle was recruit "Wah Wah" Jones from Harlan
Lawyer: "on paper ... hair gets dry"
meaning they would if their hair had a dryer which was a bribe
Gary Raesdell

123. What did Steven do for fun?

200. - "Herald staff history"

205. "What they ate? Not Sushi - promo for food"

235. Clubs...etc. dating

265. Importance of community service 275

275. Events worldwide. Vietnam 293. Smoking

320. High lottery #

320-355. Diversity not really tension

375. Affected by UXU "insider" / "outside"

Gary Raesdell (grad. '73)

14-17. Why did you attend?

25-40. Where lived & when?

40-68. Where lived & what was it like (Julie)?

68-83. Traditions @UXU & promo "family envir."

83-85. Faculty: John Milton, retire ones

110-183. Worked Jobs: Financial support: Bio lab, rabbit story, no scholarship, and leadership, promo/stmters, son's work ethic, Ad agencies & John M.
Virginia Robertson 675 Lynn Stone 4th, 9, 2000 U.K. Class '77

read about project

about almost 17 yrs. grew up in Barren Co., KY
at age grew up on a farm, few people other than church groups
get out of 8th grade w/ lots of grammar

depression times; no one in her family had even gone
to high school. Parents sent their daughter to high school

walked a mile to Glasgow Junction station

the parent borrowed money from grandfather to send daughter for 3 yrs. to high school room & board

Robertson

"miracle" that her principle came from WKU, L.C. Curly
incredibly influential in her life
got her a job waiting tables @ WKU 1st year there
borrowed $ from grandfather (owed 3% of his money)

WKU "was a whole another world for us"
loved reading books in the library
she was a wallflower + studier

Had Gordon Wilson fish, Eng. Classes
History classes w/ David Robertson -> K.Y. Building
Robertson

climbed in the middle of her dress,

walked back forth from KF Building to Small Hall.

Cherry died in the middle of her education.

collected gifts for the KF Building.

in sixth grade she was attending school.

father, William Jenkins, Brian Macfield.

2 years after she graduated from high school she married her teacher, not a former teacher, but a former student. He was a former student of Robertson. He taught 5 yrs. afterwards.

she had to see Amelia, her heart, as a senior, she met Robertson, a former student of Beauchesne, 10 yrs. after they graduated. She was a public administration person.

before hand she never develop a burning desire.

...
Robertson

- went to basketball, baseball, etc. games
- had a son in B.G. son was born while husband was overseas
- "I had one arbitrary art class" 31st Dec 1940 married
- commanition: was no phone
- wore slacks during W.W.II but not during the time at school
  - not years: men wore slacks, women wore pettites, bobby slacks, long dresses
Harriet Downing (Hard to hear) 170 8/23/50

- Working in lower office from Arkansas
- Not a lady to consider Murray, lower Mr.? Old Potter School for Girls
- Wrote Pres. of WKU
- Doc. in speech

1st impression of BG KY was not very good from bottom to top of hill, but after a few days it was exactly how I liked it.

- Lived in old West Hall (old) Schneider Hall only 2 dorms: Ms. Denver or Doughman dorm director. Women's dorm.

He Downing

- She worked in office at dorm 2nd semester
- Rules on campus: in by 9:00, 10:30 weekends
- Lights out, signing in & out w/ names on board
- Put it was b/c the electricity was turned off except in special campus activities
- Entertainment: Biclo 2nd date
  - Was a whole lot to do b/c we didn't have any money walked up hill to diamond field
  - Listen to battery operated radio / there were unspecified dates

- Campus Beauty / or Class Favorites
H. Downing

- Circus in Flinging Geridos campus activities "long underwear"

- Pearl Harbor day. "dead silence" / knew all the young men were going to be gone"
  sitting on the stage of Van Meter.

- one brother on farm in small town (old family)

- Chapel was once a week w/ designated good seats. Roll was kept. Faculty was all sitting on the stage. Expect
  had inspirational speaker, education speakers, foot + base ball.

- Dr. Holt Sumner's chemistry class 1st semester
  made her feel at home. talked about Arkansas.
  "didn't know a busner buyner from a hole in the wall cause I'd never had chemistry in Arkansas."

- others I can't make out.
"She chose WKU cause it was so close to home. I grew up in Simpson county, KY near BG."

"At that time I wanted to do elementary education but then I got into library science while I was here, b/c it seems like from the friends I had met here you asking me "Where's this, Where's that?" instead of going to librarian. I had known b/c I had just explored themselves. "When I started doing my practice teaching, I had definitely decided I didn't want the children I wanted the books."

"Library was Gordon Wilson Hall

"Worked as a student assistant in library for 3 yrs. 1st year you get sick of it with the shelving books, shelving books going into the stacks.

"In '66 the new arena was built and it was talked about: what are we going to do with the Big Red Barn?" "And the powers that be decided that would be a good place to put a library, b/c it had a basement and the main floor could be the reading room, check out desk.

"I mainly was reading the shelves, & making sure that there was a card for every book on every shelf. I remember it was
Miller

so dirty and dirty, they brought them (the books) over in the pickup trucks to the new facility. At the time of the move, I was at the new building making sure the books were transferred and in order.

- there was no special moving co; just students and WCU employees.
- This was one of the few times the girls could wear pants or jeans. Otherwise we worked in dresses. A woman could not wear pants on campus unless she was going to gym.
- lived off campus the whole four years. Had a lot of friends in dorm.
- Girls had to check in and check out. Boys could not pass the house mother or the senior girl on duty in the reception area to go up to her room. Girls had curfew, because all the dorms were locked at certain times.
- Freshman all had Chapel on Wednes, the 1st semester. Attendance was taken. There was no computer we stood in line to register.
  (Register at the Old Barn then Diddle Arena)
- Students attended the games and the big thing was the red towels that they sold; I kept my red towel for years.
- shared apartment 1st a room (Aunt & Uncle by marriage) for far from campus
- had friends from 4-H Club high school
- Girl visitors had special permission to go to girl's dorm rooms.
- During the homecoming big bonfires we went thru
Miller

the girls and the boys dorm and there was a party raid.

A young lady wore her hat and gloves as she walked to church. "Church may be like Fr. seminar today, but toward the end of Freshman on campus were completely discouraged from having cars.

A lot of comptitor. Soph if your grades were good.

Topper Cafe, Mu ‘ry’s, Student Center, Baptist Group, Victrn WM, Catholc Center

Miller

• Organized Religion was more prevalent back then.

• Conservite views. Music Ed class. Ms. Catechale. "Young lady, if I catch you wearing pants to class your grade drops a letter and you are out of class for a day or two.

Well funales came that year, we had snow on the ground. It was cold. Several of us wore pants. But we made sure we got to class before she did. We had gone to the bathroom and our pants legs up, took our coats off and worked them around us so she wouldn’t see. That was her little death threat. Even dress pants, but jean, you did not wear those to class.
Teachers
- Sarah Downing Taylor (Edu. 2 or 3 class)
  good teacher taught how to teach and lesson plan

clubs
- Student National Ed. Asso. (SNEA)
  Sponsor: Dr. Mary Cole. She was her teacher or advisor/club committee.
  Chairmen: they together awarded scholarships to students
  Received one herself a xmas chk to person receiving it not through financial aid office

Regal Lyn Library Club
  promoted understanding of libraries
  trip to state library TN public library in Nashville

Miller
- just opened municipal library
  interest in work of govt docs
  director offered her a job w/ work doing govt docs
  (prof. M. Lawson) Librarian @ UKU - govt docs library
  @ she helped her in the afternoon w/ that office helped as a stepchild
  until Mr. Lawson came over, and I was the 1st student worker for that department. We wanted the alumni to also see the new building. The carpet had been laid down, and the cardboard circle was cut out in.
  I met Juan Wilson and his wife. While they were opening the new library floor.
  Myself and another student went to his house to get some of his original paintings to have on display for homecoming.
Senior Events

Senior Reception
she was nominated & received Who's Who on Campus
& certain GPA
& nominated by 2 dept.
& named on Fall ballot of student voting %senior topclass
& get your picture made special and it got votes
listed your activities & and all
Went to Simpson Co. to practice teaching under her old 3rd grade teacher.
St high Library Strip to act for grad school

Commencement... went, came from Franklin to library for

Miller

an afternoon of visiting staff and faculty
'grad. over at the Piddle Arena
"It was so hot. That was when the time each person went through the line and shook the presidents hand, but the diploma were given you were given only the cover. The reason being when you turned in your cap and gown then u get 40 cents of paper. The caps and gowns we had were reusable, the gowns were actually cloth,"

she came back to work at the library that summer
lived off campus
A History of Western Kentucky University

Inspired by Oral Accounts

Complications

- Archive Red Tape
- Finding Interviewees
- Poor quality records
- Time constraint on resources
- Slow progress filtering through data

Archive Findings

- Numerous pictures and scrap books
- Many recordings of alumni
- Past oral history written in early 90’s by WKU history dept.

The Famous Cook Twins
Archive Findings

Methodology

Research historical events and time era.
Design questions (Ask open ended questions).
Locate interviewees.
State what the interview is for.
Host conversation friendly conversation that follows questions.
Finish with: "Is there anything else you would like to sell?"
Thank them for their time.
Edit/transcribe interview to paper.

Interview Questions

1. Where are you from? Were you a first college generation student in your family?
2. Why did you choose to attend Western Kentucky University?
3. What was your major(s) and minor(s)? Did you switch your major(s) and/or minor(s)? Why?
4. Did you live on campus or on campus or both? Where? Why?
   A) What are your memories of that dorm life or off campus life?
   For example curfews, community life, any lifetime relationships.
   B) What traditions on campus do you remember participating in?
   C) Please share your most prominent memories of your student life at WKU.
5. During your time as a WKU student did you work on campus or off campus or both? If so in detail, what job did you hold? When? What was it like? Did it affect your future career?

6. What was life like on campus? Examples like what did you do for fun, what did students wear, where and what did you eat on campus?
7. What classes or faculty were most memorable? Why?
8. Were you involved in any organizations and/or clubs, Greek societies and/or athletic teams? What was your involvement? Were you a big fan of sports?
9. Were there any events or issues in the country, on campus, and/or around the world that affected you while you were a student?
10. How did WKU affect your life after graduation?
Sources and Acknowledgements

- Alumni Interviewees
  - Sue Lynn Stone, University Archives
  - www.tcomschool.ohiou.edu
  - www.wku.edu

Alumni Interviewees:

- Virginia Robertson, 1939.
- Jean Payne Tinsley, 1944.
- Mayron Justice Corkell, 1945.
- Ethel Gipson Rector, 1945.
- Betty Jo Cook Gibson, 1948.
- Anna Jo Cook Pickens, 1948.
- Donald Patrick Kullman, 1972.
- Bradley Shuck, 2002.
- Charles Patterson, XXXX.