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Western Kentucky University

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"THANK YOU, WESTERN"

From

BOWLING GREEN - WARREN COUNTY COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

For 60 Years of Outstanding Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1966

5:00 P.M. (CST)

MAIN BALLROOM

PAUL L. GARRETT STUDENT CENTER
Western Kentucky State College was established by act of the 1906 Kentucky Legislature. However, Western's ancestral roots reach back 31 years beyond that date to educational institutions from which it emerged.

Dr. H. H. Cherry founded the Southern Normal School and when the Legislature authorized the establishment of a normal school for teacher training in Bowling Green in 1906, it was transferred to the State. Dr. Cherry became president of the new institution, named Western Kentucky State Normal School.

In 1922 the Legislature changed the name to Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College and granted to Western the right to confer baccalaureate degrees upon its graduates.

In 1930 the name was changed to Western Kentucky State Teachers College and in 1948 to its present name.

Western first began offering the Master of Arts degree in 1931. This program was discontinued from 1936 to 1941 but was resumed in 1941 and has enjoyed continuous growth since. A Graduate School has been established and the Masters degree in Education and in Engineering Physics are offered.

Over its entire 60 years of existence Western has experienced steady growth and progress under its three presidents.

Dr. Cherry served as president from 1906 until 1937. Dr. Paul L. Garrett served as the second president from 1937 until 1955.

Western’s present president, Dr. Kelly Thompson, took office October 17, 1955 after serving the college in numerous administrative positions since the day he entered the college as a freshman from Lebanon, Kentucky, in September, 1928.

The greatest growth has been experienced since 1955. The enrollment has increased from 1,684 to 7,824.

Curricular developments since 1955 include the establishment of five colleges, eleven new departments, and three specialized areas; the addition of sixteen new majors, seventeen new minors, and five areas of concentration; the awarding of ten additional degrees and certificates; the inauguration of four additional professional and pre-professional curricula; and many other revisions which marked significant progress in this important area of Western's total operation.

January 22, 1966, was a historic day in the life of Western when President Thompson presented to the Board of Regents the Master Plan for the future. The Board approved this Master Plan which was fourteen months in development. It calls for facilities to accommodate 16,000 students—39 major buildings with all the necessary auxiliary facilities for an expansion of such magnitude.

Thus, today, a sense of urgency permeates the entire campus as faculty and administrative staff, alumni, students and friends everywhere look to Western’s future for greater and greater contributions to Kentucky and to the nation.
P R O C L A M A T I O N
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE
of the
COUNTY OF WARREN
KENTUCKY

WHEREAS, Western Kentucky State College for 60 years since its establishment as a state educational institution has by its presence and function contributed immeasurably to the educational, cultural and economic life of Bowling Green and Warren County.

WHEREAS, Dr. E. Kelly Thompson has provided Western Kentucky State College with able and outstanding leadership during the 10 years since he became its president.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bowling Green and Warren County have arranged a Western Testimonial Dinner at the Paul L. Garrett Student Center Ballroom preceding the Western-Murray Homecoming Basketball Game and half-time ceremonies during the game at the E. A. Diddle Arena February 16 to honor the college and its president.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that Saturday, February 26, 1966, be Western Kentucky State College Day in Warren County.

Signed,

WALTER F. WEB
Warren County, Kentucky

City of Bowling Green
Office of the Mayor
BOWLING GREEN, KY. 42101

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Western Kentucky State College for 60 years since its establishment as a state educational institution has by its presence and function contributed immeasurably to the educational, cultural and economic life of Bowling Green and Warren County:

WHEREAS Dr. E. Kelly Thompson has provided Western Kentucky State College with able and outstanding leadership during the 10 years since he became its President:

WHEREAS the citizens of Bowling Green and Warren County have arranged a Western Testimonial Dinner at the Paul L. Garrett Student Center Ballroom preceding the Western-Murray Homecoming Basketball Game and half-time ceremonies during the game at the E. A. Diddle Arena, February 26, 1966 to honor the College and its President:

NOW therefore, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that Saturday, February 26, 1966 be Western Kentucky State College Day in Bowling Green.

Signed,

[signature]

P R O G R A M

This dinner is dedicated to Western Kentucky State College for 60 years of outstanding service to the youth of Kentucky and to Kelly Thompson for his leadership as president of the institution for the past 10 years.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Mr. E. O. “Buddy” Pearson

Invocation
The Reverend J. E. Jones

“Thank You, Western” from Mr. Pearson

Friends Everywhere
Mr. J. T. “Top” Orendorf

Introduction of Speaker
Mr. J. T. “Top” Orendorf

Principal Address
The Honorable James F. Gordon
U. S. District Judge,
Western District of Kentucky

Response from Western
Dr. Kelly Thompson
President

Recess to E. A. Diddle Arena in the Academic-Athletic Building for presentations at halftime of Western-Murray game
Mr. Charles Stewart, Chairman, Halftime Ceremonies

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE
Mr. Houston Griffin, Chairman
Mr. Edward E. Vanzandt
Mr. Charles Campbell
Mr. E. O. “Buddy” Pearson
Mr. J. David Francis
Mr. J. Murray Hill, Jr.

Mrs. Jane Morningstar
Mr. Herbert J. Smith
Mr. Charles Stewart
Mr. Harold Huffman
Mr. Harold McGuffey
Pictured above is Recitation Hall which stood at the head of College Street where now stands Henry Hardin Cherry Hall. This was a magnificent view on February 11, 1911 when Dr. H. H. Cherry led his faculty and student body up College Street to the new campus atop College Heights. Recitation Hall served as the main classroom building until the coming of Cherry Hall in 1937.

This was Western's gymnasium in the early days. At one time the need for housing accommodations was so great this structure was used as a girl's dormitory. This building gave way to the spacious Health and Physical Education Building in 1931 which in turn was enlarged and reconstructed into the magnificent Margie Helm Library in 1965 after the coming of the Academic-Athletic Building and E. A. Diddle Arena in 1963.