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CHRISTMAS 1958

GREETINGS from your Alma Mater

What better time of the year to reactivate the WESTERN NEWSICIAN than at Christmas? We of the Western Music family wish to take this opportunity to send warmest season's greetings, and at the same time acquaint you with a bit of what has been happening on the Hilltop since last you heard from us. Now that the transformation of the music department has reached its peak, it is time that consideration be given to our many loyal friends and supporters. Thus this new issue of the NEWSICIAN. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Claude Rose, Editor

MUSIC HALL REMODELED

Of interest to all of you Alumni are the major improvements that have taken place in the music building, and its physical equipment. You who were here for Homecoming expressed your delight and amazement at what had already been accomplished. Instead of three floors and a basement, we now boast of four full floors (*but no elevator*) with five new practice rooms acousticized, and 110 lockers installed on the newly-tiled first floor. In addition, the old garage is now a very attractive lounge with a complete glass wall facing the old drive-way which now is the main entrance to the building. New aluminum double doors open out to a veranda covered with a modern glass marquee appropriately embellished with shrubbery, etc. The band room and choral room were completely done over with acoustical material and new flooring. Miss Chisholm's old studio and Mr. Beach's studio were made into one large brass studio. The lounge across from the choral room was divided into two small studios which now house Miss Chisholm in one and a study room in the other. The Carnegie and theory rooms were made into one large classroom which will accommodate 100 students and have room left for folk dancing. Those are the major changes in addition to a complete paint job and a new leak-proof (I) roof.

In addition to the new steel lockers, we now own a new Hi Fi Bogen portable record player which is used in the choral room for listening by Music Appreciation and Music History classes in addition to free listening periods in both afternoon and evening hours. Several new practice pianos have been installed in the new practice rooms. Furniture for the new lounge-lobby is on order. Come and see our new quarters!

MRS. TRAVELSTEAD RETIRES

After some forty years of loyal service to the music department of WESC, Mrs. Nelle Grooch Travelstead retired from active service at the end of the Summer session. She has been enjoying a life of leisure (?) at her home on the Barren River Road, and at present is on her way to New Mexico to spend the winter with Chester and family after having made a short visit over Thanksgiving week end with her other son, Will Gooch, at Baltimore, Maryland. We miss Mrs. Travelstead in Music Hall this year, but are glad that she has decided to take it easy for once and be free to do as she pleases when she pleases.

Her work has been divided between Miss Bale and Mr. Godfrey in addition to their work at the Training School. Mr. James Godfrey is the new faculty member this year coming to Western after about twelve years of successful teaching at Pulaski, Virginia, where he built up a very complete music department. Mr. Godfrey is also teaching the new course on Junior High Methods.
BAND DAY

Nineteen bands were on hand October 4 for the most successful BAND DAY ever held on the Hill. A parade was held at ten o'clock followed by a massed rehearsal for the afternoon show. At half time of the football game the bands marched on the field and presented a most entertaining show. The marching bands in the area showed remarkable improvement. Credit for the efficient organization of the event goes to Western band director, Edward Knob.

HOMECOMING

Even though the weatherman did not cooperate to his fullest, attendance at this year's Homecoming Music Department Breakfast reached an all time high of 72. Following bacon and eggs, etc. and a short program at Farrell's restaurant, visiting alumni moved to the Music Hall to enjoy an "open house" for the rest of the morning with conducted tours through the building, coffee in the decorated glass lounge included: Mrs. Margaret Walker, George and Sara Weekes, Ida Weidemann, Wendell Couts, Jack McCarty, Harold Phillips, Gene and Helen Lawton, Bob and Jeanette Sallee, Gordon and Juanita Hendrix, Dr. and Betty Dalton Bloss, Marion Adams, Don Trivette and fiance Joyce Furnish, Gene and Jean Steinkuest, Jamie Haraway, Mrs. O. E. Schow, Dorothy Pedson, Beverly Harper, Macaulay Arthur, Billie McLoud, Beegie Long, Bill and Mrs. Rideout. At the open house and aftergame reception were seen: Charles and Lois Hall and Son, Louella Wycoff Steward, Phylles Blakeman, Joseph Hoggard, and Nancy Slocum Schneider.

And of course at half time Nick Koenigstein, '48, was very much in evidence with his Eastern Maroon band which put on a fine show as did our own fast stepping Western Band. An innovation was the crowning of the Homecoming queen during pre-game ceremonies.

KMEA and KMTA CONVENTIONS

At the first state KMEA Convention held the week end of November 21, thirty-two Western alumni, faculty and students gathered together for a short but fine period of fellowship at noon the second day of the convention held on the campus of the U. of Ky. at Lexington. The Western group was more than double the size of any other group from any of the other state schools. We made our presence heard in the Donovan Hall cafeteria with the singing of "College Heights" at the close of our meeting.

In addition to the luncheon, Western was represented on the Convention program by two members of the Western Music Educators Club and Ye Editor who gave a progress report about some of the activities carried on by our local student club.

Over-lapping with the KMEA convention was the state KMTA Convention held at Richmond, Thursday and Friday of the same week end. Dr. Tom Stone and Chm Pauli were Western music faculty members on the program in addition to a group of 5 of Mr. Pauli's voice students who performed at a student voice recital. Dr. Stone was elected one of the Vice Presidents of KMTA and Mr. Pauli as chairman of the state group of WATS. Mr. Thaden, of the Piano Department, also attended both conventions.

MESSIAH, December 14

As the NESSICIAN goes to press sounds of strains from the MESSIAH are going through the building in preparation for next Sunday's bi-annual presentation of Handel's MESSIAH. The chorus of 100 voices will be assisted by a chamber orchestra and six student soloists. Mr. Pauli will direct the production with Miss Chisholm at the console of the new Conn Electric organ in Van Meter auditorium.
FACULTY ACTIVITIES:

Again the Nashville Symphony Orchestra is depending upon several of the Western music faculty members to fill out its ranks. Dr. Carpenter is principal violist, Mr. Knob is principal bassoonist, Mr. Beach is playing trumpet, and three faculty wives also play with the group--Mrs. Rose, 1st violin, Mrs. Thaden cello, and Mrs. Knob, French horn.

The faculty string quartet (Dr. Stone, Dr. Carpenter, Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Thaden) meet regularly and recently played a series of short concerts before students of the Owensboro schools as a part of a program to create interest in study of string instruments. Jack O'Hara, '49, is the new band director at Owensboro senior high this year and was responsible for the local quartet appearing in Owensboro.

The year's first recital was presented by the faculty with Bennie Beach, Howard Carpenter, Mary Chisholm, Edward Knob, Osm Pauli, Thomas Stone, Edward Thaden and Claude Rose performing.

Edward Thaden, head of the piano department, presented an outstanding and artistic piano recital last month in Van Meter Auditorium. It was the program he presented last summer at Florida State U. as a partial fulfillment for his Doctor's degree.

Mr. Rose will direct the Central City Community Chorus for the second consecutive year in a performance of the MESSIAH, December 21, at Central City.

LARGE FRESHMAN CLASS

The Freshman music class this year is more than double last year's beginning group. Our enrollment, as of December 1, includes seventy-two music majors. Our goal is 100 majors in order to balance each of the performing groups and to better meet the many demands and requests made for beginning music teachers at the end of each semester. Our improved physical plant will make it possible for the department to more adequately take care of this larger group. Send us names of outstanding junior and senior music students for future freshmen classes.

HAPPY 1959

Another issue of the MUSICIAN will follow shortly after the Holidays. Since so much news has piled up since the last of this publication, it has been decided to save the rest of the campus news and notes about alumni for the next issue. Send us news about your activities, and keep us posted regarding changes of addresses, additions to your families, etc.

Again best wishes to all of you for a successful 1959. Come and see us!

Your Western Music Department