

# A Walk Down Memory Lane

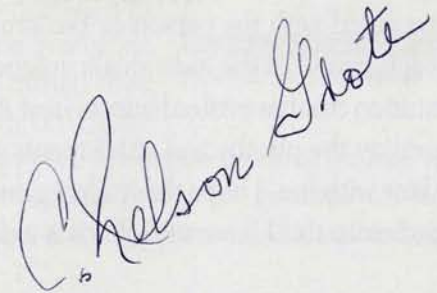
A Brief History of Morehead State University

By Dr. C. Nelson Grote

## **A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE**

The Naming of Buildings on Campus and Related Stories and Photos  
Beginning in 1960

By  
*Dr. C. Nelson Grote*  
President Emeritus

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nelson Grote". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and "G".

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## Preface

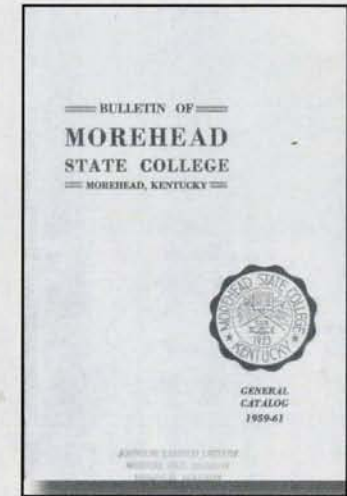
Unless one has lived through the time when the campus has changed so much, it is hard to visualize what the campus looked like 48 years ago. The photos incorporated in the text should help the reader in that transition. The campus has continued to change over the years (i.e., the Boulevard). Most people do not know what the original buildings looked like as many have under-gone architectural changes, some times dramatic change, such as the student center. I have said to many people over the years, that there is a great advantage of having known most of the people whose names enshrine the facades of the buildings on our campus. Since I knew most of the people, I have memories of them that make each building come alive so that names are not just markers but descriptive in human terms. Many of the short stories in italics allow the reader to “step aside” from the central theme to get better acquainted with the person or the situation. They give you insight into the background of the individual’s unique contribution to the history of an institution that has evolved into a Great Regional University. Read the narrative, enjoy the photos and attachments and you too can walk down memory lane with me. I hope the readers gain a new respect for the people who helped make this University what it is today.

The author assumes the sole responsibility for the accuracy or inaccuracy of the memories described. The acknowledgements should indicate my sincere attempt to validate my memory and/or to correct it. I learned a lot in writing this manuscript and it forced me to recall many wonderful memories. I sincerely hope the reader can sense the pride and the love that I hold dearly regarding Morehead State University.

*C. Nelson Grote, the 11th President of MSU*



A walk along the University Boulevard for many of us is like a stroll down memory lane. I arrived on campus on August 10, 1960. We were called Morehead State College at that time with a primary purpose of preparing teachers for the public schools. *Figure #1.* (We were identified as Morehead State Teachers College until 1930.) There were more than 2400 students on campus in 1960. Most students resided on campus and all faculties were expected to live in Morehead/Rowan County. Faculty and staff knew each other and they in turn knew the names of most of the students. Students were discouraged from having a car on campus unless they needed it to go to a job or to go back home. Freshmen parked in a compound and turned their keys in and picked them up on Friday.



*Figure 1. The 1960 Bulletin/Catalog*

Cars on campus were not supposed to be moved during the day. We were a big family. It was a very personal place. There was a great spirit. When things were going well, it was a happy place. When we had a problem, everyone was sad.

Having lived here off and on over a span of 47 years, I don't just see buildings with identifying names, but in most cases I knew the people whose names are on most of these buildings. I see those people and remember who they were and recall stories relating to many of them. It gives the campus a special personal feeling that warms my heart in such a way that I can safely say that I love the University because I loved so many people associated with the institution. Do me a personal favor, and let me walk you down memory lane and see if you, too, will feel differently as you stroll the campus in the future.

*(It might be helpful as you read the narrative to follow the Campus Map attached, specifically the buildings marked in red that were here in 1960.) Figure #2.*

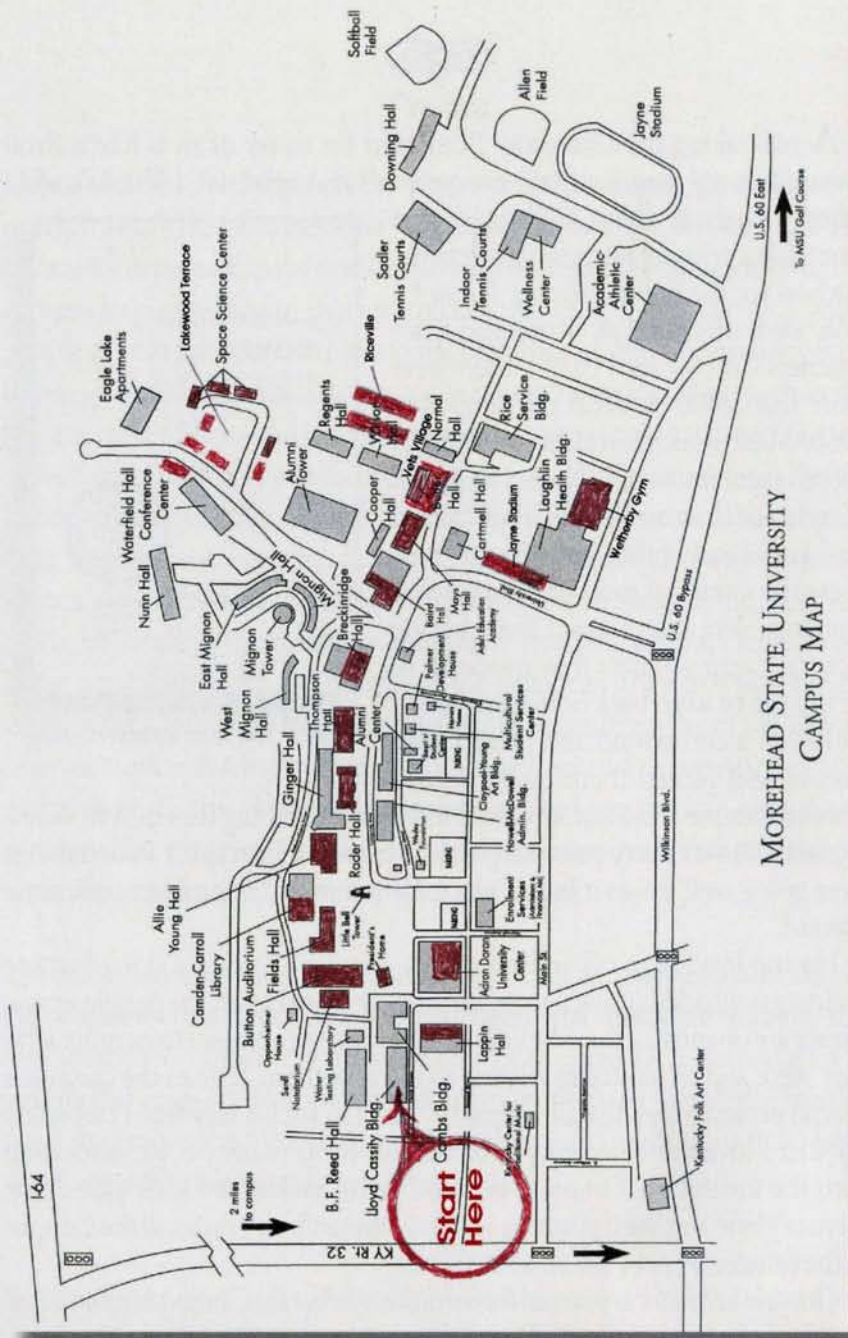


Figure 2. Special Campus Map with 1960 highlights.

Before we take that stroll and talk about the names on the various buildings, we need to establish a base line regarding the buildings that were here and already named when I arrived in 1960. If you start walking with me on the west end of the campus, there was no Lloyd Cassidy Building or Reed Hall, and the Combs Classroom Building was not yet built.

Residences were located along third street to the corner of University Boulevard. Where Combs Classroom Building is today was a cottage with small porches on each end and a sidewalk out to the street with pretty flowers on each side. *Figure #3.* The house was called the Home Management House where students practiced for the Home Economics Program. Miss Patti Bolin, the Department Chair, lived there.

Lappin Hall (built in 1937) was nearly one-third the size of the current building. *Figure #4.* From the front it looks just like the building I remember

because we required the architect to retain the integrity of the architecture when it was renovated. (My first office was in Room 212). The President's Home (built in 1928) was there with a screened-in porch on the right side and no brick wall around the backyard. The one-car garage was underground, near

the vicinity of the new triple garage that is there now. There was an entrance on the side of Button Auditorium so that the President and his guests could walk directly into the building from the house to attend a basketball game or a program in the Auditorium. It was closed during my administration.



Figure 3. Home Management House prior to Combs Classroom Building.



Figure 4. Lappin Hall before two additions.



Figure 5. Senff Natatorium before demolition.

Senff Natatorium (built in 1932) *Figure #5.* was named for Judge Earl W. Senff of Mt. Sterling, in Montgomery County, who served as Secretary of the Board of Regents. (His nephew, Dr. Earl King Senff, a faculty member, wrote the MSU fight song which is still being used.) The building was a short distance

behind the President's house and was the official campus pool where our children learned to swim in the summer. Bill Mack was the swimming coach and he and others taught private swimming lessons there. (Mrs. Jean Mack still resides in Morehead.) On the corner across the street was a very small two-story brick building that was designed as the Student Center (built in 1957).



Figure 6. Original Student Center prior to two additions.

*Figure # 6.* On College Avenue, just east of the Student Center, there were residences and the house on the corner of College Boulevard and Normal Avenue was owned by William Caudill. The Senior Scholarship program that we have today that allows persons 65 years old to take tuition-free classes is called the Caudill Fellowship. There were residences all the way to Elizabeth Avenue and there were no buildings between University Boulevard and College Avenue such as the Administration Building, or the Art building. In fact, the Boulevard was two-way with cars parallel parked on both sides. Earlier, the Boulevard was two-way with a lighted grass median intermittently. *Figure #7.* The Boulevard continues to change in appearance.



Figure 7. The early Boulevard with grass medians, lights and parallel parking.

Immediately behind the President's Home was Button Auditorium (built in 1927). In addition to the auditorium, the college basketball court was located there. It was called a "cracker box" because it was shaped like a box with very limited seating. The auditorium was of course named for the first President, Dr. Frank Button. Dr. Button may have resided in the President's Home for a few months.

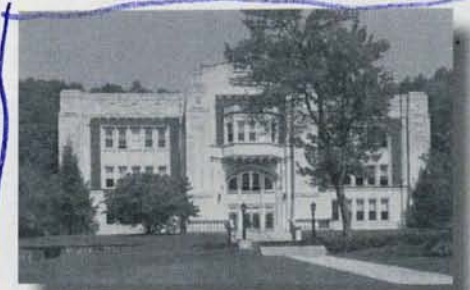


Figure 8. Johnson Camden Library prior to additions.

Walking just beyond the President's Home is Fields Hall (a residence hall built in 1927), the beautiful original Johnson Camden Library (built in 1930) *Figure #8.* and Allie Young Hall (a residence hall) that was built

BUILT ON THE SITE OF OLD BURGESS HALL - MINS BLDG

in 1926. There were beautiful old trees that shaded the area all the way from the President's Home to the Administration Building, and they were destroyed by a straight-line wind storm in 1993. There was no Ginger Hall and the next building was not called Rader Hall but was the beautiful Administration Building (built

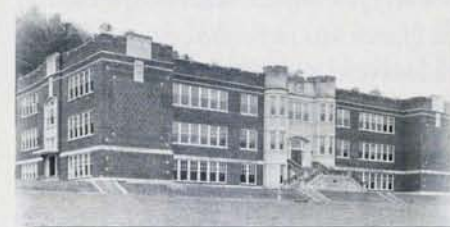


Figure 9. Original Administration Building with central facade and double stairway.

in 1925). *Figure #9.* You will remember that there was no administration building across the street at that time. Unfortunately, the beautiful cut stone entrance was removed in the renovation of this building.

*An aside: In driving Dr. Doran through the campus one day, he said that he regretted changing the facade of Rader Hall and that the cut stone should have remained.*

The Grote-Thompson Hall (built in 1927) was next and the original smaller Breckinridge



Figure 10. Original Breckinridge Training School before two additions.

Hall (built in 1931) stood on the corner enhanced by huge oak trees. Breckinridge Hall housed all 12 grades in the Training School used as a practice teaching laboratory for prospective teachers *Figure #10*. Across the street to the east was the original small Baird Music Hall. The first section of the Music Building (built in 1954) was named for William Jessie Baird, an early President of the college. *Figure #11*. The road between Breckinridge Hall and Baird Music Hall went to Eagle Lake and as soon as the bridge was finished, the road led to the married student housing complex called Lakewood Terrace.



*Figure 11. Original Baird Music Hall before two additions.*

*An aside: My family and I moved into the very first duplex, next to Eagle Lake, in August of 1960. Since the bridge across the branch was unfinished, the moving van had to drive through Parney Martindale's backyard with all of the old appliances everywhere. While unloading our furniture, the asphalt pavers started up the drive and there was a choice of paving or unloading. It was resolved by the pavers helping to unload the van. During that year, we observed the completion of the many married housing buildings and the laundry building which made up Lakewood Terrace that served many students, faculty and staff.*

Cartmell Hall (built in 1969) did not exist nor did the Laughlin Health Building (built in 1967). In its place was an old concrete football stadium, named for William LeGrande Jayne, Dean of the Morehead Normal School and Chairman of the Athletics Committee. A granddaughter still resides in Morehead. The stadium was facing east looking out on a grassy field. *Figure #12*. Where Cartmell Hall stands now was where the tennis courts were located in 1960. Wetherby Gymnasium (built in 1956) was new and that was where all basketball games were played. If you continued on



*Figure 12. Old concrete Football Stadium.*

beyond Baird Music Hall, the attractive men's residence hall called Men's Hall (built in 1937) ended the permanent structures to the east. However, there was a number of temporary structures that were referred to as Vets Village *Figure #13*. for returning veterans and Riceville for married students, faculty and staff. These facilities were war surplus and were relocated to the campus.

*An aside: John and Dot Collis remember moving into Vets Village in the fall of 1947. Sue Wells recalls that she and Randy moved into Riceville in the summer of 1960 when she was a student and Randy was a first year faculty member.*



*Figure 13. Mays Hall, Tennis Courts and Vets Village.*

There were no buildings behind Breckinridge Hall or Baird Music Hall. The field that Alumni Hall (built in 1996) now occupies was the practice football field and was used by the Marching Band to practice. The campus was very pretty. Buildings were compatible in architecture and texture. It was peaceful and was truly nestled in the rolling hills of Eastern Kentucky. (When we became a University we had new official stationery depicting the rolling hills which was used for some time.) *Figure #14*.



*Figure 14. A brand new University located in the Rolling Hills of Kentucky.*

*An aside: Before we proceed, we need to recognize that on July 1, 1966, we became Morehead State University. This was a major change, not only in title but programmatically. State colleges across the country were going through a name change also. While we built on the tradition of teacher education, it was a creative time to begin the exciting proposal of broadening our curriculum. For example, business classes were no longer just business education but business administration that soon led to a master's degree in business administration with many new program emphases. In regard to the name change, it was pervasive and expensive. I remember that the 1966-67 Catalog was already printed before we gained University status.*

Therefore, the decision was made to prepare a supplement to the Catalog to bring attention to the fact we were now a University. A draft was prepared and edited by Vice President Lappin with great care and dedication. The final copy was sent to the printers. However, no one knew that it would be based on the revision of existing printers plates and when it was published as a University Supplement, it had Morehead State College printed on all even numbered pages and the word University in all of the text where general information was written. Figure #15. We were all appalled and immediately began preparing the 1997-98 catalog with corrections. It took years to revise all of our forms, documents and signage.

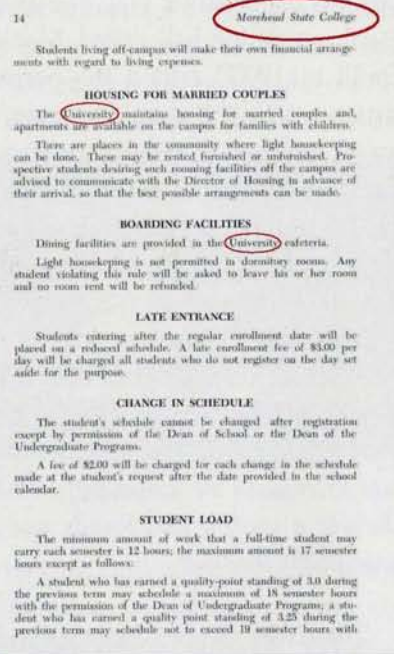


Figure 15. University or a State College: Can it be both?



Now, let's take that stroll full of memories down the MSU Boulevard after 1960, beginning our walk once again on the west end of the campus. (See circle on map, Figure 2.) The Lloyd Cassity Building (built in 1962) was named for Lloyd Cassity, a Regent for 23 years from Ashland, in Boyd County. He was "Mr. Public Relations" with a warm smile and personality. He was a co-owner of Spring Grove Dairy that had a distribution center here in Morehead where the County Attorney's Office is located on East Main. He was very active in the Ashland Chamber of Commerce. It was my privilege to be in charge of planning the Cassity Building and to work directly with the architect with my initial drawings. The west half of the building was for the Industrial Arts Department and the east half was for the Home Economics Department. As a Division Head, I was administratively

responsible for these two departments as well as Agriculture and Business. The first set of floor plans was done in consultation with faculty and staff.

Immediately behind the Cassity Building is Reed Hall (built in 1973), named after B.F. Reed, a Regent from Drift, Kentucky, located in Floyd County in Eastern Kentucky. He was a coal executive and highly respected. He was appointed six times to the Board of Regents and because of his high interest in technical education, it was logical to name the building for him..

*An aside: Mr. Reed was appointed by six Governors: Lawrence Wetherby, A.B. Chandler, Bert T. Combs, Edward Breathitt, Louie B. Nunn and Wendell H. Ford. President Doran was protective of his relationship with the Board of Regents and people like myself had little contact with them. In the 11 years I served as a Division Chairman and later as the Dean of Applied Sciences and Technology, I was never invited to attend a Board meeting.*

Reed Hall is physically connected to the Cassity Building with an elevated enclosed walkway to allow ease in the movement of equipment and materials, as well as people. Reed Hall has an underground parking area which was an experimental design along with the elevated walkway. I was responsible for these two unique characteristics as well as the total design of the building. There were many innovative facilities within this structure including an information storage and retrieval system as well as the greenhouse complex next door. I have always had reservations about the choice of the exterior, but when I realized what it would look like, it was really too late to make a cost effective change. When I left in May 1971, the foundation was in place along with basic underground utilities. Reed Hall was designed to serve as the Appalachian Technical Institute, a concept partially funded by ARC Funds made available by Representative Carl Perkins. After I left as Dean, the concept was not developed or implemented.

Many of us argued with Dr. Doran that the Home Management House should be torn down so that the Combs Classroom Building could be built there, but he insisted on relocating it directly behind the new building. It was to be temporary, but housing space was at a premium. It became known as the Music House as Mr. E.J. Music, a native of Paintsville, Kentucky, one of our two fine security officers at that time, lived in it for many years. Then it became a storage building/dressing area for the theater program as there was a small theater on the first floor of the Combs Classroom building. The temporary building was destroyed by fire in 1997 and razed in 1998,

proving, once again, that temporary buildings usually become permanent. The Combs Classroom Building (built in 1961) was of course named after the Honorable Bert Combs, the Governor at that time. He was a distinguished attorney from Clay County in Eastern Kentucky and a great friend of higher education. It was during the time he was Governor that the Community Colleges were authorized. It was my privilege to plan the second floor, which was to house the Business Department, in consultation with faculty and staff.

Lappin Hall (built in 1937) was named for Warren Lappin who was a long-time Dean of Morehead State College and later the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University. He also served on two occasions as the interim President. This building has had two additions and a renovation of the original building. There were facilities for several programs in the Applied Sciences included in the second addition because of a major increase in enrollment in those areas. One of the facilities that was built on the first floor was a commercial kitchen and a fine dining room. This was a laboratory for the preparation of dietetic students and advanced foods classes. Dr. William Simpson, the Dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics, was very unhappy that space had been provided in his building and dubbed it "Grote's Bar and Grill." We had a college-wide contest to give it a "proper" name, and it was called the Cornucopia Room for years. Just recently, it has been renovated into a sophisticated science laboratory and named for Dr. David Magrane, a most deserved recognition. I was president when the second addition was funded and let for contract.

The screened in porch on the President's Home was converted into a sun room. The brick walls around the backyard were built from funds not used in the Cassity Building. Dr. and Mrs. Adron Doran lived in the President's Home their entire tenure. Later, a second floor was added above the sunroom. They had a live-in maid who was an integral part of the family.

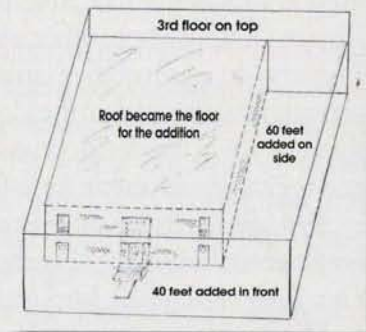
*An aside: I rarely was on the first floor of the house but met regularly with Mrs. Doran in the basement entering by the back door in the late 60s. She would consult with me and run ideas or problems by me in confidence. The PDI program was considered there. In reverse, I was able to influence the President as Mignon was involved with "pillow talk" with Adron. It was a two-way street.*

The Student Center, later named after President Doran, has had three additions. First, the smaller two-story brick building was enveloped with an addition (built in 1967) to the front and to the right side as well as capped

with a new third floor. *Figure #16*. It was covered with white marble, which soon deteriorated and had to be replaced. More recently, the building underwent an expansion toward the front as well as new terracing and the closing of the Boulevard. *Figure 17*.

Fields Hall (built in 1927) is one of the oldest buildings on campus. It was named for Dora J. Fields from Olive Hill, the first female member of the Board of Regents and wife of Governor William Fields. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. When I arrived in 1987 as President, it was an eyesore on the Boulevard. Student groups used it as a "Haunted House" at Halloween.

Windows were broken out and it was a dump inside. This building was renovated (1990) with new and exciting concepts for student residents during my administration.



*Figure 16. Initial Student Center enveloped as a part of the addition.*



*Figure 17. First addition to the Adron Doran Student Center.*

*LAST BUILDING TO BE RAZED OFF MNS CAMPUS  
BUILT ON THE SITE OF OLD BURGESS-HALL*

The Johnson Camden-Carroll Library named for U.S. Senator Johnson N. Camden, Jr. has undergone two additions (1965/1978) with the last one five stories high. *Figure #18*. The last addition gives recognition to Governor Julian Carroll, hence, the combined name of the Johnson Camden-Carroll Library shortened to the Camden-Carroll Library. It sits prominently and properly in the center of the campus.



*Figure 18. First addition to the Johnson Camden Library.*

Allie Young Hall was built (1926) and named before I arrived in 1960 and it was

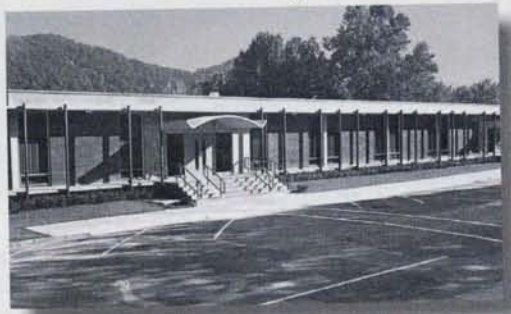


used as a residence hall. Allie Young was a prominent lawyer and Judge in Rowan County whose office was in the little building that is on the Historic Registry just south of the Garrard Faculty House on College Boulevard. (It was originally located on the Courthouse lawn.) He was in the Legislature at the time when the decision was made to locate a college here in Morehead and is given much credit for influencing the final vote.

*An aside: Mr. Young's daughter is Jane Young Holbrook who was very young when her father died. Highway 32 north is named for him as well as a bridge crossing the Ohio River at Maysville. Jane's husband was a well-known dentist and businessman in Morehead for many years. They now reside at Woodson Bend, near Somerset, Kentucky. We know them well and enjoy their friendship.*

The new administration building known as the Howell-McDowell Building (1963) was built in two stages. It was a one-story building with a walk-out lower level for several years. *Figure #19*. When it was first completed, all of the administrative services were moved from the building across the street now known as Rader Hall. As we continued to grow and when we

needed major new space for our first computer center and other office space, a second floor was added in 1965. The remodeled building was named for two members of our Board of Regents, Mr. Cloyd McDowell from Harlan in Harlan County, Kentucky, and Mr. Jerry Howell from



*Figure 19. The new Administration Building. One-story with a walk-out bottom floor.*

Jackson in Breathitt County, Kentucky. Both men were in the coal business and were leaders in their respective communities. I did not know Mr. McDowell well. Mr. Howell served on the Board of Regents for 12 years and was chairman of the Presidential search committee that brought me back to MSU in 1987. He had served in the Legislature with Dr. Doran and was a long time friend. His son, Jerry Howell Jr., was a distinguished Professor of Environmental Sciences until he retired and he still resides part time in Morehead.

The old administration building (1925) was completely renovated with a new facade (1970) and was designed to house the Social Sciences. As

Clifford Rader was the Division Chairman at the time of the renovation and who died soon after, the building was named in his memory. Dr. Rader was not only a professional person, he was also a fine craftsman. He made steel knives, which he gave to his dinner guests, and he also was a musician and played the banjo. Years after his death, his widow donated two of his instruments to MSU including a beautiful banjo with ivory inlays and carvings. After his death, Dean Roscoe Playforth, one of the first five Deans, occupied the major office in this building for many years.

Ginger Hall was built (1969) to house the Dean of Education and the Education and Behavioral Science faculty and staff plus classrooms and laboratories. Lyman Ginger was a long-standing Dean of Education at the University of Kentucky. He was a special friend of Dr. Doran's. Dr. Ginger served as Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1972-1975 and was active in the Kentucky Education Association. While at state and national conferences, Dr. Doran would accompany him and serve as his parliamentarian. Dr. Doran was an expert on parliamentary procedures since he had served as Speaker of the House in the Kentucky Legislature. Dr. Doran wanted to honor Dr. Ginger for his distinguished service to education in Kentucky by naming this new multi-story building for him. When Dr. Ginger retired, he served as the administrator of the Cardinal Hills Rehabilitation Center in Lexington and later as the chair of their Foundation. He had an imposing stature and was a very likeable person.

The Claypool-Young Art Building (built in 1969) was named after two art faculty members who had spent many years at MSU. Tom Young was an extraordinary carver. As a hobby, he carved an entire miniature circus. He also had a wonderful train set with miniature buildings, bridges, people, trees, pets, etc. Each summer, he would assemble his train set on a big table along the sidewalk in front of the Library on the Boulevard. He would wear a blue work shirt, a red handkerchief around his neck, a blue engineer's cap and operate the many engines, cars, and cabooses. They made real sounds, including authentic train whistles. My children, who were little at that time, were fascinated with Mr. Young. His son was also an art teacher and followed his father here at MSU. Naomi Claypool was in the family that owned the big Claypool Hotel in Indianapolis. She was single all of her life. She lived in the house on the corner of Elizabeth and the Boulevard and rented the upstairs apartment to Patti Bolin once the Home Management house was moved. She was small in stature just like Miss Bolin but strong-willed. Miss Claypool taught our education students how to teach art in the elementary

and secondary school classrooms. She didn't like to be teased but because of that fact, she was teased a lot. It was very appropriate that this building be named after these two long-time art faculty members.

Grote-Thompson Hall (built in 1927) was one of the original residence halls. It was named initially for James H. Thompson of Bourbon County, former speaker of the House of Representatives who voted on the location of Morehead State Normal School. In 2008, the Board of Regents re-named the building by adding the name Grote. Dr. C. Nelson Grote was the 11th President. Dr. Grote served as the Chairman of the new Division of Applied Arts, the first Dean of the School of Applied Sciences and Technology adding up to eleven years. The building had not been renovated since its original construction. One light hung from the ceiling in each room and there were only four electrical receptacles in each room. Circuits were "protected" with old fashioned fuses that students would often circumvent with a copper penny behind them. It was a fire trap. It was stripped down to its concrete beams and completely renovated during my administration. In the destruction of the inside materials, the contractor found bare wires and wires with fragile coverings. We were lucky to have rebuilt it at the right time. A fire would have been tragic. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

*An aside: A remarkable event occurred during the renovation of this building. In 1989-90, it was standard procedure to build from the bottom up. For example, drain pipes, water lines and electrical conduit started at the lowest level and were built upward by intervals. In this case, the building was renovated from the top down. They made alignment possible with laser beams. It was amazing to watch. Remember this was in 1989-90!*

Breckinridge Hall built in 1931 had a new addition in 1965. This four-story classroom and office building was named in honor of Robert J. Breckinridge, a former State School Superintendent. Previously known as Breckinridge Training School and University Breckinridge School, it was used for 51 years as the University's laboratory for teacher training. Students who attended are fondly called "Breck Brats" and many have had outstanding careers because of the excellent faculty. Breckinridge was substantially renovated and expanded in 2002 to include a fine theater with wonderful supporting facilities, new TV studios, a new home for the Public Radio Station and many fine classrooms and laboratories.

*An aside: While discussing the renovation of Fields Hall, Grote-Thompson Hall and Mays Hall within a short time frame, it may be appropriate to include some facts that may not be well known. It should be noted that in 1990-91, our fall enrollment had grown to 8622. We had housing applications from 4,444 students and even though we assigned three to each room that normally housed two and five to each room that regularly housed four students, we simply ran out of space. So we rented the entire University Lodge (formerly known as the Bruce Motel) that was located down on Main Street (near where Rite Aid stands today). We also rented a large number of rooms at the Holiday Inn (now the Knights Inn) out at the intersection of I-64 and 32. As the fall semester settled in, and as rooms or spaces were vacated on campus, we were able to bring the students from the two hotels back to the campus. Even then, many rooms still accommodated one or more students, more than a normal assignment throughout the rest of the year. Finally, we also need to recognize that we had an urgent need to renovate the three residence halls on the Boulevard in order to present an appearance of pride and high standards to future students. It should also be recognized that between the fall semester of 1987 to the fall semester of 1992, our enrollment grew by 55%, a record of unusual achievement.*

Cartmell Hall (1969) was named after another Regent. He was a medical doctor from Maysville, in Mason County, Kentucky. It was remarkable that as a physician he still took the time to serve as a regent for 24 years, establishing a record. You never forgot Dr. W. H. Cartmell as he was very distinguished looking. His suits were immaculate and he had a tiny perfectly trimmed moustache like Clark Gable. He served as chair of the Regents from 1972-76.

*An aside: A big concrete footing outside of Cartmell Hall, which was the base for a very large piece of equipment that reached all the way up to the top of the building in the construction process, was kept for many years. It was left there because the original plans included twin towers which were never realized. It was removed recently.*

Once the new Jayne Stadium was built, the old concrete football stadium was torn down. In its place, the Laughlin Health Building was erected in 1967. It was designed to physically merge with Wetherby Gymnasium. Bob Laughlin held numerous jobs in athletics over the years, with his last position as Athletic Director. Many of us most remember him as the men's basketball coach.

*An aside: He had a brother-in-law in southeastern Michigan with the nickname of "Shorty" who spotted outstanding players from throughout southeastern Michigan and referred them to Bob. That is one reason a number of our players were tall young men and outstanding athletes from Michigan.*

Bob Laughlin's coaching career may have started in the gym in the Button Auditorium building where ROTC is housed now. But I remember the basketball games in Wetherby with great joy. The gymnasium was named for Lawrence W. Wetherby who served as Lieutenant Governor and then as Governor upon the resignation of Governor Earle Clements who went on to serve as a United States Senator. It was small and intimate. For games with Eastern Kentucky University and other big contests, chairs were brought in and lined the floor. Students would line up outside for hours to get a seat. Frank Laughlin, a brother of Coach Laughlin, with his big cigar in his mouth, sat in the same spot every game. His voice boomed and everyone in the gym could hear him either coaching or riding the referees.

*An aside: This is the place where the tradition of Mrs. Doran playing the organ before the game and during halftime originated. They actually rolled an electric organ out on the floor, and she played rousing music. She played the Star Spangled Banner at the beginning of each game, the Fight Song and other traditional music, and My Old Kentucky Home at the end. Every one knew everyone else. It was a festival, and we won a lot of games.*

May's Hall (formerly Men's Hall) was in almost the same sad condition as Fields Hall was in the fall of 1987. It had not housed students for several years and only the first floor was heated and used for storage. Windows had plywood and cardboard in them and some were broken. It was in a prominent location on campus and looked terrible. In addition, we seriously needed housing for a growing student body. It was completely renovated in 1991-92 with a new design creating small attractive apartments and is now called May's Hall Apartments.

Butler Hall (1961) was named for Wendell Butler who was the State Superintendent of Schools in Kentucky for several terms. At that time, the State Superintendent of Schools was the chairman of all of the college Boards of Regents. He was a major figure in higher education so it was appropriate to name a building for him. Later, the law was changed allowing each Board to elect its chairman from their ranks. Butler Hall was partially renovated under my administration in 1991-92.

Normal Hall (1967) was named in recognition of our early history as a Normal School. Wilson Hall (1962) was named after Roger Wilson who served as the Vice President of Student Services for many years. Cooper Hall (1965) was named after United States Senator John Sherman Cooper, a man respected by Democrats as well as Republicans in his own party.

*An aside: I had the privilege to know him fairly well and, just days before he died, I received a check in the mail from him for \$10,000 made out to the University Foundation. I wrote a special thank you to him the same day, but he died the day before the letter arrived on his desk. They returned my letter as a courtesy. When I was the National President of the AVA, I spent a lot of time in Washington, D.C. and rode the train to and from Morehead. When coming home on Friday nights, I often sat with Senator Cooper and ate dinner with him in the dining car. This was a special honor.*

Regents Hall (1963), of course, was in recognition of the role of the many citizens who had served on our Board. Nunn Hall (1969) was named for Governor Nunn's wife, Beula. Governor Nunn also served on the Board of Regents and was the Chair of the Board of Regents at a very difficult time in the history of the University. Governor Ned Breathitt also served on the same Board along with Calvin Akers, a former Supreme Court Judge, and Dr. Alan Lansing, a distinguished cardiologist from Louisville. With the other members, it was a powerful Board of Regents. Waterfield Hall (1960) was named after Harry Lee Waterfield, a former Lt. Governor and a long time friend of Dr. Doran.

The three residence halls named for Mignon Doran, the wife of Dr. Adron Doran, serve as a worthy tribute to her many contributions to the University, to Eastern Kentucky and in many ways, to the Commonwealth. She was a stylish lady, whose influence was felt by everyone who met her. Not only was she Dr. Doran's partner over the years, she introduced a program on campus called the Personal Development Institute (PDI) which she taught as a volunteer initially. The Deans were required to take the course and I found it very helpful. It continued for years after she retired and was copied by other institutions. She died in 2008 at the age of 96.

*An aside: Ladies of all ages may find this segment hard to believe and amazing when Mrs. Grote tells this true story of a funny occurrence. Mrs. Doran was a stylish lady who was always dressed in fashion and a big champion of hats in the 60s. She had many hats and most were made by Mrs. Tant, a local milliner. Mrs. Doran had a "telephone tree" that she used on some occasions to advise a group of ladies on what to wear. She would call one person and they in turn would call two and those two would call two until all were advised. On one such occasion, when there was a short notice, she advised that white gloves would be appropriate. Well, one of the ladies could not find her white gloves and was desperate. She called a dear friend who had found her gloves and they concluded that they would share one pair by each of them*

*"carrying" just one white glove. It worked! These two wonderful ladies still reside in the community.*

The Rice Service Building (1965) was named after W. H. "Honie" Rice, a graduate engineer from the University of Kentucky and our Director of Maintenance for many years. Riceville, that was discussed earlier was named for this person. He was a burly man who never smoked a cigar but just chewed on them. It was his trademark. He had the infrastructure of the entire campus memorized and could fix anything on campus. He was also proclaimed the best bridge player in Morehead. His wife, Virginia, was the Home Economics teacher at Breckinridge School.

Downing Hall (1967) was named for George Downing, the first MSU football coach and faculty member. At the time it was built, the football players were required to live there. Now the NCAA discourages such an arrangement. For many years, a number of offices and service functions have been located there.

Jayne Stadium, built in 1964, was named for William LeGrande Jayne and has been the home of the University's football and soccer teams. It has a President's Box that is used for hosting at every game. When Dr. Doran was getting up in age, we invited him and his wife to many games. After huffing and puffing up the long walk up to the President's Box he said to me, "If I had known I was going to live so long, I would have put in an elevator!"

*An aside: A book would not be adequate unless it included the significant contribution the Dorans made to this institution, the region and the Commonwealth. Dr. Doran was President from April 6, 1954 through December 31, 1976. A total of 19 major buildings were built during his administration. We went from a small unknown college to a respected University with growth rates that exceeded 20 percent. His legislative experience enabled him to work extremely well with the state legislators and governors in seeking funding. He was a respected leader in the Commonwealth. He was a demanding President and at times very straight forward. The most famous quote is when he told students and faculty that this was his University and he made the rules and if they didn't like them "there was a bus going east and a bus going west!"*

You may not have been aware as you were walking on the sidewalks of the campus that there are tunnels under many of them that carry steam lines, power lines, telephone and cable lines that support the entire campus. The original lines were installed in 1926 when several of the main buildings

were built. By 1978, these systems had never been replaced but had patches on top of patches. In 1986-87, the University had to be closed for days at a time, to repair these systems. You could not depend on a continuous source of electricity or heat. It was during my administration that we "bit the bullet" and went to the Governor and to the Legislature to make our case. Even though capital funds were scarce, we were successful in getting millions of dollars to upgrade all of the systems. The campus was a mess for quite a while, even with enrollment booming, but the University is benefiting from that effort today. We also installed a new telephone system and fortunately used fiber optics that facilitates our current computer and other technologies. For this effort, I was given a facsimile of a man-hole cover that was named the "C. Nelson Grote Memorial Tunnel" (in jest) because we spent millions on the project at a time when faculty and staff were receiving minimal salary and wage increases.

One can see, after hearing the many stories about the people whose names are affixed on our buildings across this beautiful campus, that walking down the Boulevard is a "Stroll Down Memory Lane" for those of us who were a part of the history of this special place. The names you see are given a human dimension, realizing that each name represents a person who made a unique contribution to this University. They should not be forgotten. That's why their names are engraved and etched into the permanent structures so that they will be remembered forever. I hope you enjoyed Walking Down Memory Lane with me and that in the future, you will not just use names to identify buildings but recognize these memorials to some very special people.



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### Materials used:

MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY'S *Named Places, Spaces and Units*,  
Revised August 31, 2006

*The Facilities Maintenance Plan*, 04/04/2003 edition.

## **Analysis of those Recognized by Category**

### **Elected Officials: (State and Federal)**

Breckinridge, Robert J., State Superintendent  
Butler, Wendell P., State Superintendent  
Camden, Johnson, U.S. Senator  
Carroll, Julian M., Governor  
Combs, Bert T., Governor  
Cooper, John Sherman, U.S. Senator  
Ginger, Lyman V., President KEA  
Nunn, Beula, Wife of Governor Louie Nunn  
Senff, Earl W., Judge in Montgomery County  
Thompson, J.H., Speaker, House of Representatives  
Waterfield, Harry Lee, Lt. Governor  
Wetherby, Lawrence W., Governor  
Young, Allie, Judge and State Senator

### **Former University Presidents:**

Button, Frank C., 1st President  
Baird, William Jesse, 5th President  
Doran, Adron, 7th President  
Grote, C. Nelson, 11th President

### **Board of Regents:**

Cartmell, William H.  
Cassity, Lloyd  
Fields, Dora J, wife of Governor Williams Fields  
Howell, Jerry F., Sr.  
McDowell, Cloyd  
Reed, B.F.

### **Faculty and Staff:**

Claypool, Naomi	Mays, Jesse T.
Doran, Mignon M.	Rader, Clifford
Downing, George D.	Rice, W.H.
Jayne, William LeGrande	Wilson, Roger L.
Lappin, Warren C.	Young, Thomas
Laughlin, Robert G.	

## MSU Buildings and Date Built

- 1925 - Administration Building
- 1926 - Fields Hall
- 1926 - Allie Young Hall
- 1927 - Button Auditorium
- 1927 - Grote-Thompson Hall
- 1928 - Presidents Home
- 1931 - Breckinridge School
- 1932 - Senff Natatorium
- 1937 - Lappin Hall
- 1937 - Mays Hall
- 1954 - Baird Music Building
- 1956 - Wetherby Gymnasium
- 1957 - Student Center
- 1960 - Waterfield Hall
- 1960 - Lakewood Terrace
- 1961 - Combs Classroom Building
- 1961 - Butler Hall
- 1962 - Wilson Hall
- 1962 - Cassity Building
- 1963 - Administration Building
- 1963 - Regents Hall
- 1964 - Jayne Stadium
- 1965 - Rice Service Building
- 1965 - Cooper Hall
- 1967 - Laughlin Health Building
- 1967 - Downing Hall
- 1967 - Alumni Hall
- 1969 - Cartmell Hall
- 1969 - Ginger Hall
- 1969 - Nunn Hall
- 1973 - Reed Hall
- 1981 - Academic-Athletic Center

1931  
CAMDEN-  
CARROLL  
LIBRARY

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Dr. Jack D. Ellis  
552 W. Sun St.  
Morehead, KY 40351  
606-784-7473

**A Walk  
Down  
Memory  
Lane**

By Dr. C. Nelson Grote