


1959

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THE INDUSTRIAL ARTS DEPARTMENT
WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

The Industrial Arts Department was established by the Western Kentucky State Teachers College under the direction of Mr. L. T. Smith in 1920. The first home of the Industrial Arts Department was two rooms, consisting of two thousand square feet in the Students Army Training barracks which stood at Fifteenth and State Streets, where it remained for four years.

The equipment for the department consisted of a few hand tools for woodwork and six benches which had been used in the Psychology Department, and three small machines.

The purpose of the Industrial Arts Department was outlined under four points: 1. To offer an enriched and broadened educational program for the teacher of general education. 2. To provide an opportunity for principals and superintendants to prepare themselves to supervise and direct industrial arts. 3. To teach students habits of thrift

and respect for skilled work. 4. To train teachers of industrial arts and elementary handwork.

In 1922 Western placed its first industrial arts teacher in the field of teaching.¹

When the army barracks were torn down to make room for the present Training School in 1924, the lumber from them was used by student labor, trained in the department, to build the Manual Arts Shop, which stood near where the Physical Education building is now located. This building was equipped sufficiently to justify a considerable amount of construction on the production basis, and the curriculum was considerably broadened. This building was destroyed by fire on the night of January 3, 1928, and the department was moved to rooms one and two of the Home Economics Building, where it remained for a year.

When the building burned, the state legislature was in session. Dr. H. H. Cherry, President of Western Kentucky State College, secured an appropriation for the present whitestone, fireproof building immediately. The plans for construction of this building were drawn by Captain Brenton B. Davis, the contract was let to W. P. Raymond Construction Company, and thirteen months later in January, 1929, the new building was occupied.

The new building is a three story structure with twenty-two thousand, five hundred square feet of floor space. It was well equipped for woodworking, sheetmetal and forge shops, drawing, printing, and farm mechanics, and had adequate space for the addition of other departments when they were needed.

From the early infancy of the department a small crew of students have worked in the shops on school maintenance and construction. A production program was in force for many years. It provided an opportunity for practical production activities for the students who worked there and enabled many students to earn a part of their expenses while in school. The project proved valuable economically and educationally both to the students and the institution.

The Arts and Crafts Club, one of the oldest departmental clubs on the Hill was organized in connection with the department in 1925, and still operates for its benefit. The fire in January, 1928 destroyed all of its papers, including the constitution and by-laws, and the club did not meet for a year. In December, 1928, it was reorganized under a new constitution and has functioned regularly since that time.

Although the above activities of the department functioned separately, they are closely related and the ultimate aim of each is to confer benefits on the department, and consequently on Western. All will continue to function for the development of a better Industrial Arts Department here and better service on its part for the territory into which it send teachers.²

Since the organization of the Industrial Arts Department many new courses have been added in order to meet the demands of the rapidly growing department. The most recent additions were two courses, elementary and advanced machine shop. In early 1946 the Industrial Arts department obtained war surplus equipment from the government, making Western's one of the best equipped teacher training machine shops in the entire south.³

In 1949 auto mechanics was added as an elective and in 1959 electricity will be one of the more beneficial courses to be taught.

The maintenance and Industrial Arts teacher training departments remained closely connected until the new maintenance building was completed on the Russellville Road in early 1958. The present facilities

of the Industrial Arts Department are used exclusively for teacher training.

The Industrial Arts Department has been one of the constant producers of graduates since its beginning. Following is a list of the number of Bachelor of Arts degrees awarded each year by the department:⁴

YEAR	NO.	YEAR	NO.	YEAR	NO.
1922	1	1935	10	1948	12
1923	1	1936	3	1949	16
1924	1	1937	5	1950	18
1925	2	1938	6	1951	19
1926	0	1939	10	1952	8
1927	1	1940	5	1953	9
1928	0	1941	10	1954	9
1929	9	1942	5	1955	8
1930	5	1943	2	1956	11
1931	7	1944	1	1957	12
1932	15	1945	2	1958	18
1933	11	1946	7		
1934	7	1947	6		

The Industrial Arts Department has an enviable record for teachers which have been devoted to the institution. During the thirty-eight years of existence there have been only seven teachers of which four are instructors at the present time and one retired. A short biography of each teacher follows:

Mr. L. T. Smith, a native of Iowa, attended and graduated from Sanborn High School in Sanborn, Iowa. After graduation from high school Mr. Smith enrolled at Bradley Polytechnic Institute, now Bradley Univer-

sity. Then after attending Stout Institute, Mr. Smith returned to Bradley where he received the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in industrial arts.

Following a short period of teaching at Washinton, Iowa, Mr. Smith accepted a position as teacher of industrial arts at Iowa State College. Here he was connected with the Trades and Industries and Engineering Extension Department.

In 1920 Mr. Smith came to Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, Kentucky. No industrial arts program had been organized at Western and the athletic program had not reactivated after World War I. Mr. Smith served as football, basketball, and baseball coach as well as industrial arts instructor, until Coach E. A. Diddle was appointed in 1922.

Mr. Smith organized the industrial arts program at Western 1920. This was the first teacher training program in industrial arts in Kentucky. He served as head of the department until he retired to take the position of Physical Plant administrator at Western in 1957.

In 1931 Mr. Smith received his M.A. degree in industrial arts at Peabody College.

From 1931 to 1934 Mr. Smith was director of the Western N.Y.A. program and has supervised the building of many of the buildings on Western's campus.

In 1948 the annual at Western was dedicated to Mr. Smith as recognition of his many years of service to the institution.

In 1957 Mr. Smith was awarded an honorary membership to the Epsilon P.I. Tau. This is an International Honorary Fraternity in industrial arts and industrial vocational education.

In 1958 Mr. Smith was awarded an honorary membership to the Kentucky Industrial Educational Association.

Mr. Smith is the father of one son, who also has a major in industrial arts, and has made Bowling Green, Kentucky his home since 1920.

Mr. Walter B. Nalbach, a native of Michigan, attended Grand Rapids elementary school and graduated from Davis Technical High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Upon completion of high school, Mr. Nalbach enrolled at Western Kentucky State College where he received his B.S.

degree in industrial arts in 1933. He was awarded the M.A. degree from the University of Kentucky in 1937.

Mr. Nalbach taught industrial arts in the Louisville Public School System, Louisville, Kentucky in 1934 and 1935. In the fall of 1935 he returned to Western as an instructor in the Industrial Arts department, where he taught until 1942 when he accepted a position at Morehead State College, Morehead, Kentucky, as instructor for one year. In 1943 he went to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he served as an instructor trainer in the Armored School until 1945.

In 1945 Mr. Nalbach again returned to Western Kentucky State College as an instructor in the the Industrial Arts Department.

While attending Western as a student, Mr. Nalbach was shop foreman and student instructor.

Mr. Nalbach is a charter member of the Kentucky Industrial Education Association and served as president of the Kentucky Industrial Arts Association in 1955.

In 1957 Mr. Nalbach was appointed to the position of department head of the Industrial Arts Department, Western Kentucky State College. This is the position he holds at the present time.

Mr. Walbach is the father of one daughter and makes Bowling Green, Kentucky his home.

Mr. Carl B. Barnes came to Western as an industrial arts instructor in 1929. Mr. Barnes is a native of Prentiss, Ohio County, Kentucky. He attended Science Hill elementary school at Prentiss before coming to the State Normal school at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Mr. Barnes served in the army infantry during World War I and then returned to Bowling Green where he received his A.B. degree in industrial arts in 1925 from Western Kentucky State College. He then taught high school industrial arts in Greenwell high school, Greenwell, South Carolina, from 1925 to 1927. In 1927 he went to Selma High School, Selma, Alabama where he taught one year.

In 1928 Mr. Barnes received an M.A. degree in industrial arts from Colorado State Teachers College and came to Western Kentucky State College as an instructor of industrial arts in 1929.

Mr. Barnes is the father of one son and has made Bowling Green his home since 1929.

Mr. Howard B. Clark originally from Lancaster, Kentucky in Garrard County.

Mr. Clark attended Lancaster elementary school and graduated from Lancaster High School, Lancaster, Kentucky in 1935. In 1940 he received his B.S. degree in industrial arts from Western Kentucky State College and his M.A. degree in 1947.

In 1939 Mr. Clark taught industrial arts at Glasgow High School for one year. He then went to Louisville Public Schools in 1940.

In 1941 Mr. Clark accepted a teaching position in Fredericksburg High School, Fredericksburg, Virginia, but returned to Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green, Kentucky to teach industrial arts in September, 1941. Here he remained until January, 1942.

From 1942 to 1946 Mr. Clark served with the U.S. Air Force and attended the Stewart Technical School of Aeronautics in New York City. After being released from the Air Force he returned to Bowling Green High School to teach in 1946 and 1947. Upon completion of the requirements for an M.A. degree he came to Western Kentucky State College in 1948 as an instructor in industrial arts and at the present time holds this position.

Mr. Owen Lawson Jr. is from Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Kentucky. He attended Elizabethtown elementary school and graduated from Elizabethtown High School in 1945.

Mr. Lawson served a total of thirty-five months in the U.S. army, 1946-1947 and 1950-1951. In 1954 he received his B.S. degree from Western Kentucky State College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, in industrial arts and his M.A. degree from Western in 1957.

Mr. Lawson has had varied experiences in many fields of employment. From 1940 to 1945 he worked as a farmer, painter, carpenter, and auto mechanic. From 1948 to 1950 Mr. Lawson was employed by General Motors Corporation as a metal worker. During the time he was attending college he was a shop foreman at Western.

In 1954 Mr. Lawson accepted a teaching position in the Martinsville School System, Martinsville, Virginia. Here he taught industrial arts until 1957 when he came to Western Kentucky State College as an instructor of industrial arts.

From 1955 to 1957 Mr. Lawson served as Apprenticeship Coordinator, Virginia State Department of Labor and Industry and the summer of 1958 he was Supervisor of Construction at Western Kentucky State College.