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UA3/2/4 Talk WLBJ

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TALK WLBJ* OCTOBER 20, 1940

Western Kentucky State Teachers College, so named in 1930, was established by act of the legislature in 1906 under the title of Western Kentucky State Normal School. In 1922 permission was given to confer baccalaureate degrees and the name changed to Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College. The immediate predecessor of Western Kentucky State Normal School was the Southern Normal School and Business University, a private institution with a two-fold purpose as indicated by its title, headed by Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry. On January 1, 1907, the Southern Normal School was transferred to the state and its property became the site of the new state normal school of which Dr. Cherry became the first President. In 1911 the new normal school moved from its first location now occupied by the Bowling Green Business University to its present commanding and beautiful site on College Heights. In 1928 Ogden College, which had operated with distinction as a private institution for more than fifty years, leased its beautiful campus adjoining the college property to Western. Western's half million dollar classroom building completed in 1937 stands on the site of Potter College, a well known school for the training of young women. So it may be truthfully said that Western is the spiritual heir of the three institutions which have been mentioned. At present the college

property embraces the campus of some sixty acres, two farms of sixty-five and more than five hundred acres respectively; and we have in addition under the generous terms of the Ogden lease the free use of the Ogden farm of one hundred forty acres at the edge of Bowling Green, which includes the Fair Grounds.

Dr. Cherry served as the president of Western until his death in the summer of 1937. The Western of the present is a glorious monument to his endeavor. His was the vision and energy which transformed the wilderness which was the Hill into one of the most beautiful college campuses in America noted for its fine buildings and beautiful flowers and shrubs and trees. His was the inspiration which created here a spirit unique among institutions of higher learning. And in both tasks he was nobly aided by the loyal support of a zealous and capable group of teachers and helpers of his selection. It is a pity that time does not permit to pay them individually the credit which is their due.

The present Western as has always been true has for its chief task the training of men and women to serve in the schools of Kentucky and the nation. In this connection in addition to training elementary teachers and high school teachers in the usual academic subjects it also prepares vocational teachers in the fields of agriculture, home economics, and industrial arts. The music department is outstanding and its organizations such as the a capella chorus, the orchestra, and band add to the musical reputation of the college at each appearance. But the college recognizes a broader obligation

then only to train teachers. A four-year liberal arts course is offered leading to the A. B. or B. S. degree according to the student's field of specialization, and an increasing number of students are coming to Western to take pre-medical, pre-dental, and pre-law work in preparation for professional schools. The fine standing of our graduates in professional and graduate schools is a high tribute to the quality of work done here.

An infantry unit of the Senior Division of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps gives male students an opportunity for military training. Last year more than twenty men who had completed this course received commissions as second lieutenants and entered military service.

The college physical education program offers a wide range of intramural and intercollegiate sports. The football and basketball teams have been of the highest caliber. The football team last season was defeated only once, and the basketball team at the national basketball tournament won national recognition.

The college is fully accredited by the Association of Kentucky Colleges and Secondary Schools, by the American Association of Teachers Colleges, and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. As a result our graduates are admitted with full credit to the leading universities of America.

Last year among our student body were representatives of 106 of the 120 counties of Kentucky and of twenty-seven states of the Union.

But I could use the entire hour allotted for this program to talk to you about Western and not half do justice to its greatness. I must not close without mentioning the Kentucky Building, to the construction of which many of you who listen made contribution. Housing the Kentucky library and museum, it preserves for the future the treasures of the present and past and is destined for an ever increasing usefulness as visitors come from near and far for inspection and research.

As for the future of Western, knowing fully its fine resources of library and laboratory, the scholarly attainments of its faculty, the devotion and loyalty of all who serve it on the campus and of the alumni in the field I have a firm confidence that Western's future will be worthy of its glorious past.