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WKU Industrial Education & Technology

READOUT

Industrial Education and Technology Department
Western Kentucky University

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1 APRIL 1976

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

The new Environmental Sciences and Technology Building is completed. The departments of industrial education and technology, agriculture, geography and geology are now moving into the building and the move is expected to be finished this summer according to Dr. Frank Conley, Head of the Industrial Education and Technology Department. Classes will be taught in the new building for the first time in the fall semester, 1976.

The portions of the building alloted to the industrial education and technology department include several specialized laboratories. One is a flexible laboratory called the Resource and Development Laboratory. It will be used for workshops and seminars and special industrial displays.

There is also a plastics laboratory equipped for vacuum forming, injection molding, and fiber glass lay up. The thermal metals laboratory is equipped for foundry; conventional welding; mig and tig welding; and forging and heat treating. There is also a machine tool and technology laboratory to be used mainly for advanced machine processes including numerical control and materials testing. The general metals laboratory will be equipped for introductory metals instruction.

The multiple activities laboratory, located on the second floor, will be set up to resemble a public school laboratory. It will be used by teacher education and recreational crafts students.

Included in the building are offices for all industrial education faculty and a department head suite of offices consisting of a secretary's office, conference room, and the department head's office.

In reference to the department, Dr. Conley stated that, "we are making progress and growing; the future outlook is good," and he cordially invites all alumni, friends, and interested persons to tour the new facility this fall.

VIEWPOINTS*

Some Reflections on the Kentucky Industrial Education Association

by Donald D. Wendt

During the fall of 1975 the writer was granted a Sabbatical leave to research and write a history of the Kentucky Industrial Education Association.

The organization, which was established in 1957, has contributed significantly to the cause of Industrial Education in the Commonwealth.

The faculty of the industrial education and technology department have participated in its activities since its inception. L. T. Smith, long time Industrial Arts department head at Western, was very influential in convincing people that such an organization was needed. H. B. Clark, Owen Lawson and Walter B. Nalbach were active in the organizational efforts. Throughout the years, departmental faculty have participated actively in the organization. In addition, numerous graduates from our department have held offices and other positions in the association.

Prior to its founding, industrial educators in Kentucky visualized an organization to serve their needs. Apparently they discussed this informally while in attendance at other professional meetings. Finally in the spring of 1956, Ralph Whalin then chairman of the Industrial Arts Department at Eastern Kentucky State College took the bull by the horns and assembled a small group of trades and industries and industrial arts teachers, who were in Louisville attending KEA meetings, at the Sealbach Hotel to seriously consider and take affirmative action concerning the formation of such an organization. As a result of this meeting several other meetings were held and the first KIEA convention was held in the Kentucky Hotel in November, 1957.

The organization grew and prospered. In 1957 there were 401 members and almost 1,400 in 1972 and 1973. One of its strongest features was and still is that it was founded by practicing industrial educators to promote and improve industrial education in Kentucky. Personal involvement in the organization by its members has been another cornerstone as witnessed by the fact that during the earlier conventions nearly one-half of the membership was involved in helping with the convention.

The KIEA has a rich tradition of service to industrial education in Kentucky. The fact that we have a joint association of industrial arts and trade and industrial teachers makes us the envy of educators in many states and it is reported that some of these would like to emulate the example set here in Kentucky.

Technology Assessment A Step Toward A Humanized Technology

by Dr. Norman Tomazic

Our technology has presented us with countless opportunities—opportunities that might result in great good or in incredible tragedy. We are faced with the question phrased by Bertrand De Jouvenal, "Now that every year we are able to achieve more and more of what we want—what do we want?" We are troubled by the uncertainty of the future. We cannot know whether the future will be the nightmare that Orwell and Huxley have outlined, but we must prepare ourselves, and be alert to the choices that we can make that will prevent such predictions from becoming reality.

The processes of technological assessment seem to offer the most promise for man attempting to use his technology in the face of uncertainty. Our assessment process must ask questions such as:

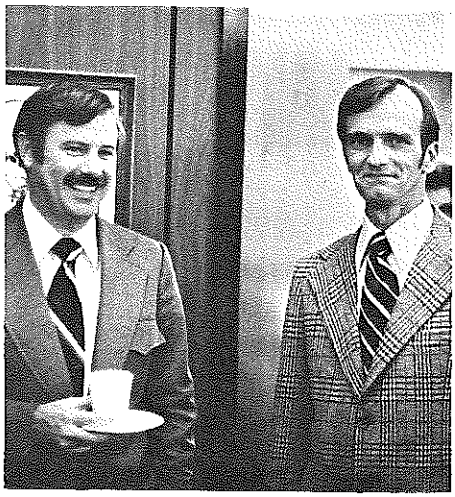
1) Is there a need for the proposed innovation?
2) What framework surrounds the proposed innovation?
3) What technology does the innovation replace?
4) What advantages are inherent in the proposed innovation?
5) What disadvantages may be seen?
6) What are the possible long term effects of the innovation?
7) Will any insult to the ecosystem result from the implementation of the proposed innovation?
8) How will the innovation affect society?
9) How will the innovation affect individuals?
10) How will the innovation affect the value structure of individuals and society?
11) What alternative technologies exist?
12) Can the cost of the innovation be justified by the expected benefits to humans?

In spite of all these cautionary questions which require answering to prevent technological errors from occuring, we must be sure to encourage the development of new technological solutions to human problems. We cannot afford to stagnate in our present technology.

The secret seems to be in action—purposeful, directed, controlled action—action that moves mankind forward through his evolutionary process rather than backward to some previous state, or to a tendency to fixate development at the present state. There does seem to be an evolutionary process in the technologies of man—not just in the production of industrial material goods—though that segment may be most significant in the evolutionary thrust, but in resolving familial, political, educational, and theological problems of development as well. One of the problems in the use of technology that we must face is in the area of individual application and use. We are a society where we blame the other guy for our energy problems and they buy beer in non-returnable bottles. We reorder our priorities daily—what we choose to do—what we buy—how we pollute the environment carelessly—a reordering that indicates our values, but such actions may not be conscious acts, and we may need to place greater emphasis on the conscious determination of values which will direct our uses of technology toward human needs.

CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. Frank Bieber
Dr. Franklin Conley
Mr. Richard Harris
Mr. Howard Lowrey
Dr. Frank Pittman
Dr. George Roberts
Mr. Stan Scott
Ms. Sherlene Spencer
Dr. Norman Tomazic
Dr. Donald Wendt



PITTMAN HAS INDIVIDUALIZED COURSE PUBLISHED

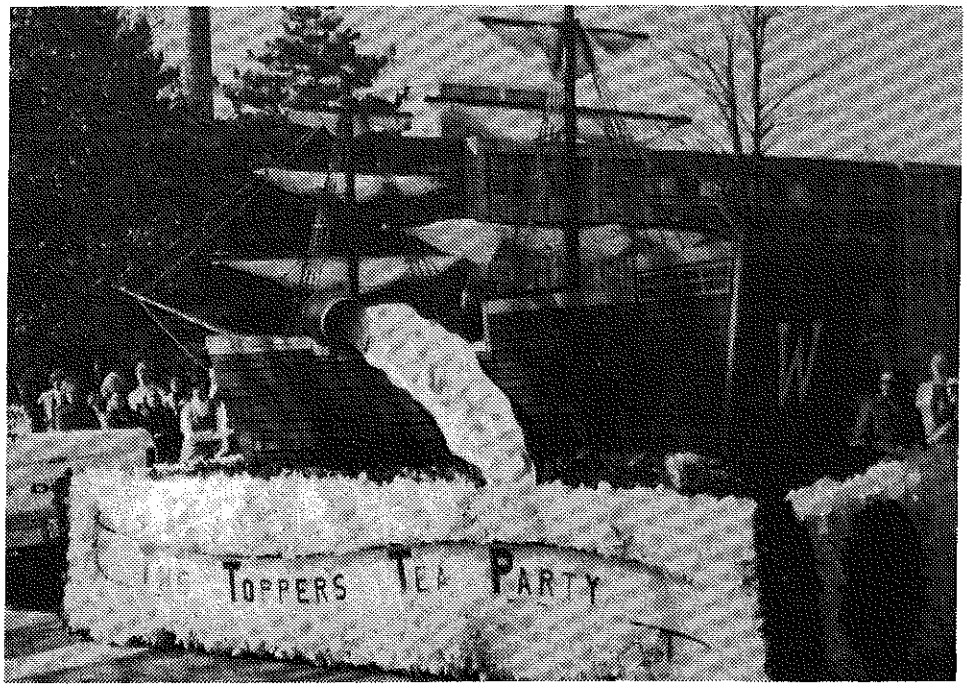
The above photograph of Dr. Frank Pittman and Dr. Franklin Conley was taken at a College of Education reception held in honor of Dr. Pittman's recent publication. Dr. Pittman just completed the development of an individualized course *"Plan, Industrial Arts: Drafting, Woodworking, and Metalworking,"* which was published by Westinghouse Learning Corporation in October of 1975. The course combines career oriented performance objectives, "hands-on" activities, optional resources, and criterion-referenced tests to meet the individual needs of students. The materials are designed for use in grades 7-10, however, they would also be of value in late high school or adult classes. Information about the course may be obtained by writing Dr. Pittman or Westinghouse Learning Corporation--100 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

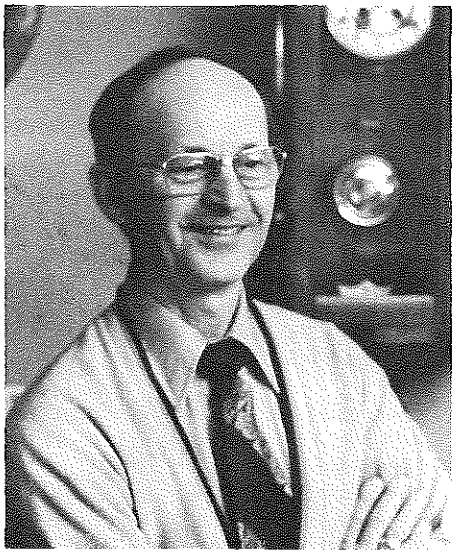
by H. J. Lowrey

The phenomenal advance in science and the application of scientific knowledge have combined with other primary developments to completely transform our economic world in recent decades.

Changes have occured so rapidly that our schools have experienced difficulty in assisting youth in keeping abreast of current developments. While all phases of education may contribute to this orientation and preparation, industrial arts has as its particular function a practical and an active approach to the problem. Industrial arts capitalizes on man's natural interest and desire to be productive. Industrial arts acquaints him with many phases of his environment which can best be presented through direct experiences and discussions of the social and technical problems involved. The industrial arts laboratory provides an excellent opportunity for young people to gain an insight into modern industry and to relate their observation to other school subjects.



I.E. & T. CLUB WON PRESIDENT'S AWARD AT HOMECOMING



H.B. CLARK

A frequent question asked when WKU Industrial Education alumni gather is, "How is Mr. Clark?" Well, Mr. Clark is just fine. He looks and acts just as young as ever. As you can imagine, woodworking is still a part of his life as evidenced by the above photograph. In recent years his wood interest has turned to clock making and rebuilding, and he pursues this hobby with his usual zeal.

Some readers may not know Mr. Clark as well as others. H. B. Clark, currently Assistant Physical Plant Administrator at WKU, taught in our Industrial Education Department for 13 years and was sponsor of the Arts and Craft Club (Industrial and Technology Club) during that time. His former students remember him well as being an excellent teacher and craftsman.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark still live at 1674 Normal Drive adjacent to the campus. Stop by and see them next time you are in Bowling Green and talk about old times.

"GROWING INTEREST"

Since the initiation of our two-year associate programs in Fall 1974-75, there has been a marked growth of interest in our two-year Architectural Drafting Technology program. The first year there were only five listed majors in the program. At the end of the second year, there are now twenty-one listed majors with more and more inquiries every day. There are approximately six majors scheduled to graduate by the end of the 1976 summer session. The continued growth of this program could possibly be attributed to the addition of several new courses to our drafting program (Commercial Architecture 270, Special Architectural Drafting Problems 274, and Architectural Display Media 278). These courses are designed to give students a more in-depth technical study of the architectural drafting area.

OLD BUILDING BEGINS RENOVATION

With the completion of the new Environmental Science and Technology Building, the Industrial Education and Technology department's old facility will begin complete renovation. Renovation plans will include the following:

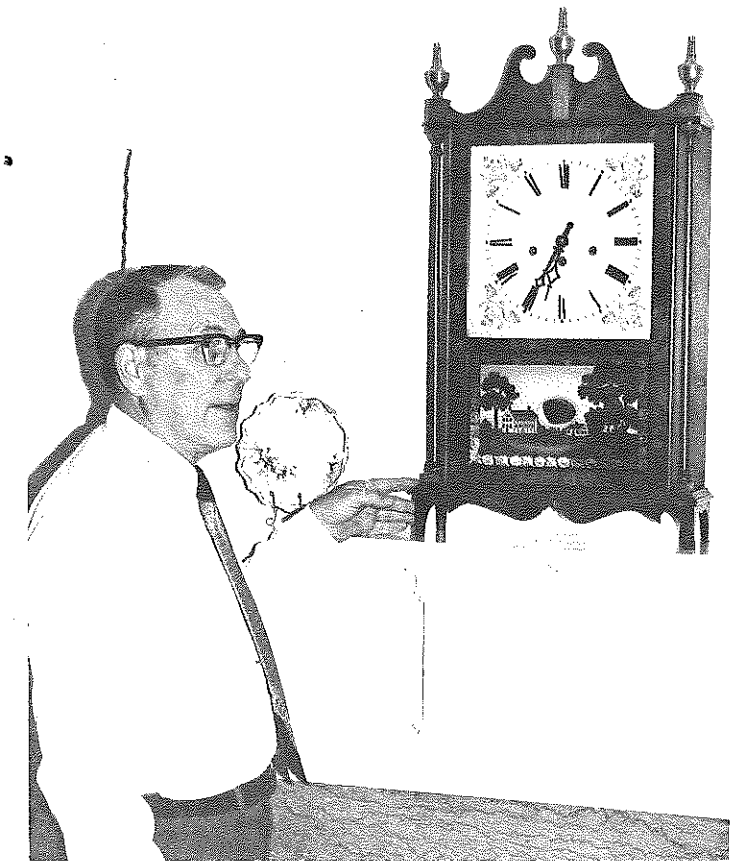
The first floor will house the industrial wood processing lab, a lumber storage room, assembly and drying lab, finishing room, a wood technology lab and a storage and display area.

The second floor, that previously housed the metal technology labs, will have a wood processing area, materials storage room, planning area, and the graphic processing lab.

The third floor, which will use the open-classroom concept, will house the drafting lab, an architectural drafting lab, a reception and resource area, a duplicating room, a product design class, technical illustration lab, and an airbrush rendering lab. All classrooms on this floor will be fully carpeted except for the airbrush rendering lab.

The exterior of the Industrial Education building will be sand blasted and environmental gray windows will be installed. Mens' and women's restrooms will be installed on each floor. A new stairway and a passenger elevator will also be installed on the south-west side of the building.

When the renovation is completed in approximately two years, it should give us better teaching facilities and more opportunities for learning.



MR. NALBACH: CRAFTSMAN AT HOME

Retired! Nonsense, Mr. Walter B. Nalbach has just found a new boss, his wife, who is keeping him very busy around the house trying to do all the things that have accumulated for thirty years. Mr. Nalbach says he is just trying to get caught up in his work so he can finish his serpentine front Hepplewhite side board and use his new fishing boat to help him slay that nine pounder that everyone dreams of. He is active in the Rotary Club and is the Vice President of a literary club. This man of many talents, a true craftsman, uses his skills of woodcarving and woodworking to escape from the busy rush of everyday life. Yes, it is hard to get a true woodchuck out of the shop as many of you well know. As Mr. Nalbach states, there is just not enough time in the day.

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Industrial Education and Technology Department
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

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