Commencement Time in 1939

Tuesday, May 16—Senior Swing Out
Tuesday, June 6—Senior Class Day
Saturday, June 10—June Breakfast
Saturday, June 17—Alumni Day
12:00 Alumni Luncheon—Ballroom, Union Building

(This is the one time of the year when alumni, faculty members, and members of the Senior Class may be together.)

2:30 P. M. Alumni vs. Varsity Baseball Game at the Hyames Field
(Last year more alumni, former baseball men, were in uniform than on any previous occasion. There were more spectators in the bleachers, too, than ever before.)

5:00 P. M. Group Gatherings
(Places to be announced.)

9:00 P. M. Annual Alumni Party
(Graduates of Western! This number of the Magazine is a personal invitation to you to be present.)

Sunday, June 18—Baccalaureate
Dr. Charles W. Gilkey, Dean of the University Chapel, University of Chicago, will give the Baccalaureate Address.

Monday, June 19—Commencement
Dr. Lester K. Ade, State Commissioner of Education, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, will deliver the Commencement Address.

The photo-stories on this page include building developments on the campus as of May 15, 1939—The Dwight B. Waldo Memorial Stadium, the Hyames Field, the Men’s Dormitory, the Health and Personnel Building, and Walwood Hall for Women.
Western State Teachers College is thirty-five years old. It was founded in 1904 by act of the Michigan Legislature, and 1939 marks its thirty-fifth birthday. A decade has gone by since the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration in 1929. At that time a history of the institution was written by Dr. James O. Knauss of the social science department. It is in it, that factual references may be obtained for the first twenty-five years. Since 1929 many significant things have happened—the first president has become president-emeritus, Dr. Paul V. Sangren, former Dean of Administration, was inaugurated President of Western State Teachers College, November 7, 1936, graduate study is now being offered, and an extensive building program is being carried on.

No Buildings Since 1925

When referring to the present building program, it should be understood that the units recently completed, and those now under construction, have been made possible through federal work relief agencies together with local contributions and self-liquidating bond issues. Not since 1925 has the State constructed any permanent buildings on the campus. Some temporary units have been built, the S. A. T. C. Barracks have been utilized, and an abandoned mill has been made to assist in providing space for an ever increasing enrollment. For the past sixteen years there has been a lapse in the building program and as a result Western State Teachers College is poorly equipped physically. There is no auditorium where all of its students may assemble at one time, many departments are carrying on without adequate facilities, and much work is being done in accommodations which are not safe, hygienic, or economical. To correct these conditions, requests are now before the Legislature for a combined auditorium and classroom building for 1939-40, the completion of the Industrial Arts unit in 1940-41, and some other immediately necessary building-and-grounds’ adjustments.

The completion of the present schedule will add approximately 2,000,000 cubic feet to the structures on the campus. There are the Union Building, the Women’s Dormitory, a Men’s Dormitory, a Student Health and Personnel Building, and the complete rebuilding of the out-door plant for physical education which includes a Baseball Grandstand and a Football Stadium seating 2500 and 15,000 people respectively. These, added to the permanent housings which were constructed before 1925, comprise classroom, laboratory, library, and physical education facilities available now and in the near future. The immediate campus of about seventy acres, the Kleinstuck wild life preserve of fifty acres, and the farm of 149 acres are the properties of Western State Teachers College.

A College More Than Buildings

But a college is more than its physical properties. The vitally important factor of any college is its personnel. Faculty members with distinct contributions to make, with forceful personalities to share, and with kindly sympathetic attitudes toward student life cannot be over-estimated. Their influence is more permanent than buildings. They are remembered. Even an annual budget of expenditures indicates the importance of personal services but it may in no wise be able to adequately do so. It is true that faculties do change. Accident, death, retirement, and many other reasons cause faculty members to go, but what graduate is there who does not return and inquire about them? The faculty of Western State Teachers College is no exception. Its members have left and are leaving indelible impressions.

Students, the Important Factor

But the most evident reason for the existence of a college is the opportunity it affords for youth to have a chance to learn. Colleges exist for students. In a democracy education must go on. Since the writing of the history of Western State Teachers College ten years ago, when the enrollment was approximately 2,000 students, a look at the average attendance reveals some noteworthy facts. If a visual graph be made and the numbers scattered along on it, the figure looks like a new moon, or a crescent. At the 1929-30 end the average attendance was 2,221. In the trough of the depression about five years later, 1933-34, only 1,505 students were on the campus. Since that there has been a steady increase until the 1938-39 point is the highest with an average attendance of 2,475. Attendance at a college being the best reason for existence makes Western State Teachers College obligated to plan for the young people who seek admission.

The Alumni Are Included

There is another group which must be included within the circumference of the meaning of a college. The product of any college is its alumni. Western State Teachers Col-
Dear Friends:

Workers together for instructions and to receive never of key helpers so no key helper should have finished and the alumni have succeeded in making good their slogan, Avoidance of grade crossings necessities remaining on the campus side of the railroad with a right of way on the football and baseball fields. In order for the State Highway Department to have such a right of way much planning was necessary and the department finally gave the State Board of Education $12,000 for a strip of land amounting to three and two-tenths acres. Other considerations were in the bargain so that Western State Teachers College would not be left without an athletic field. The plan meant the complete destruction of the existing accommodations so the following stipulations were agreed upon. The Federal Government provided $200,000 for labor. The Upjohn Civic Trust gave $3,000. The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Kalamazoo, with the assistance of the alumni in Kalamazoo and the members of the faculty, raised $25,000. These made a total of $260,000, all of which is now available. The completed stadium with accompanying facilities is to cost $270,000, which leaves the amount of $10,000 to be the contribution of Western's alumni everywhere outside of Kalamazoo. Their's is the privilege of completing the magnificent undertaking of building the new athletic field with the baseball diamond and grandstand, the 8-lane track with a 220 yard straight-away and the wonderful football stadium which is to seat 15,000 people.

Construction Work Goes On

It is almost necessary to see what is going on to conceive the magnitude of it all. Twenty-four thousand sacks of cement are necessary to build this stadium. One-hundred tons of reinforcing steel and 37 tons of structural steel have been purchased. Yards and yards of gravel have been hauled—3,000 to be exact. And in addition 2,000 cubic yards of building sand have been delivered. The material being used for seating is an expensive item. Redwood, all the way from California, is being installed—40,000 feet of it. These items all have to do with actual construction to say nothing of the necessary grading and contouring. The truth is that hills have been pushed back and valleys have been filled in and acres and acres of sod have been brought in to cover the barren places.

Twenty-four thousand sacks of cement! Why if every alumnus could come into Kalamazoo carrying a sack of cement there would only be about half enough. Two sacks apiece would be too heavy, so a much easier plan is being used. The alumni organization is geographically arranged on the division basis of the Michigan Education Association. Detroit and Wayne County is District I, the Upper Peninsula is District VII, etc., on around the State until it is all included. All graduates living outside of the State of Michigan are classified in what is known as the out-of-State file. They are a unit by themselves. A chairman is responsible in every unit. Each district is sub-divided and again sub-divided until no place or person is omitted. In this way every graduate of Western State Teachers College is informed of the development which is going on and every alumnus is invited to have a personal part in it.

Alumni Are Contributing $10,000

All of the $270,000 is raised but the last ten-thousand. That amount is left for the alumni, and a substantial part of it has already arrived. No, they are not bringing it in, in the form of cement, but what is coming will buy cement. It comes in currency—twenties, tens, fives, and ones; in postal money orders, in bank drafts, and personal checks. It comes, and as it comes, it gives to all of us courage to carry on the advancing program of education which is so essential in our democratic way of living. The alumni say, “Something to do for Western carries its own appeal.” They say that because Western State Teachers College is as has been described, and because she has for her first objective the imparting of the fundamentals of education, and because a democracy cannot be realized without an intelligent, educated electorate.
FACULTY LETTERS

(Continued from Page 3)

The Dwight B. Waldo Memorial Stadium is a necessary addition to the physical plant at Western. It will help much in encouraging superior students to come to our campus, in improving school work particularly in Physical Education, and in developing enthusiastic participation in all school activities on the part of all students.

In our opinion the alumni will profit considerably from the stadium in that everything that increases efficiency and importance of Western reflects an advantage to its alumni. The prestige that an alumnus receives from his alma mater is according to the status of the school not at the time of his graduation but at any later time when such prestige is desirable.

William J. Berry

In dealing with problems of students, Mr. Waldo set a high standard; tolerant, patient, encouraging, he always kept in mind the best interests of the student. Many a graduate of Western, in office or schoolroom, is more successful because of the confidence Mr. Waldo had in him.

Bertha S. Davis

The alumni are to be congratulated for the part they have played in making the Waldo Memorial Stadium possible. This contribution to an enlarged sports program will be appreciated by all past, present and future men of Western.

Ray C. Pellett

The alumni of Western State have built up an enviable reputation for willingness to assist the Administration in constructive ventures. Currently there is before them the most significant cooperative project ever presented. Surely every alumnus desires some part in the financing of the Waldo Memorial Stadium.

John C. Hoekje

The Dwight B. Waldo Memorial Stadium bears his name; the hilltop testifies his vision; the lives of men and women certify his work.

Ellis J. Walker

Every alumnus and particularly those in athletics should have deep and understanding memories whenever the Dwight B. Waldo Memorial Stadium comes before him for his attention.

Howard Corbus

One of the strongest ties that binds the alumni of any educational institution to their alma mater is interest in its athletic program. The enthusiastic support of the alumni of Western State Teachers College given during the past year to the project of the building the Dwight B. Waldo Memorial Stadium is tangible evidence of their devotion both to Mr. Waldo and to their college.

George H. Hilliard

The members of the Home Economics Department are planning a reunion of Home Economics alumni at homecoming this year. There will be time to attend the homecoming football game in the Dwight B. Waldo Memorial Stadium. Free tickets are available to all alumni who contribute to the stadium fund.

Sophia Reed

The Waldo Memorial Stadium bears the name of a man worthy of honor because of his life long devotion to the cause of education. It is a high privilege for every son and daughter of Western to have a part in building it.

Smith Burnham

You grads whose memories go back to the days of the big ditch should come back to see the fine new athletic plant on the banks of the Arcadia. It bears the name of a great executive and one of your best friends—Dwight B. Waldo. Incidentally a portion of the field is dedicated to Juddy Hyames whose batting average is high in any man’s league.

Come around and don’t forget to “come across.”

William McCracken

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Local organization of alumni groups is going on in many places. Every assistance possible will be given from the office of the alumni secretary to village, county, and city planning on the part of Western State Teachers College graduates in organizing themselves.

The cost of the 14,000 copies of the first issue of the Alumni Magazine was $766.89. The second issue consisted of 12,000 copies and was printed for $531.50. Twenty pages were included in the third edition at a cost of $658.28. All money subscribed by the alumni for the Magazine goes to defray the above expenses, and your interest in the publication is very much appreciated.

Alumni contributions to the Memorial Stadium total to date $3,500. Less than 1500 graduates have given this amount. We want many times that number to have a part in it. If you should like to send your money directly to the campus we will notify the chairman in your community.

Dedication Dwight B. Waldo Stadium
November 4, 1939
is
Homecoming Time
WSTC of Michigan vs. Kentucky WSTC