

*Western Michigan University*  
*Alumni Magazine (1938-1942)*

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Western Michigan University

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Alumni Magazine Vol. 3 No. 3

Western State Teachers College  
Western Michigan University

# The Alumni Magazine

Western State Teachers College

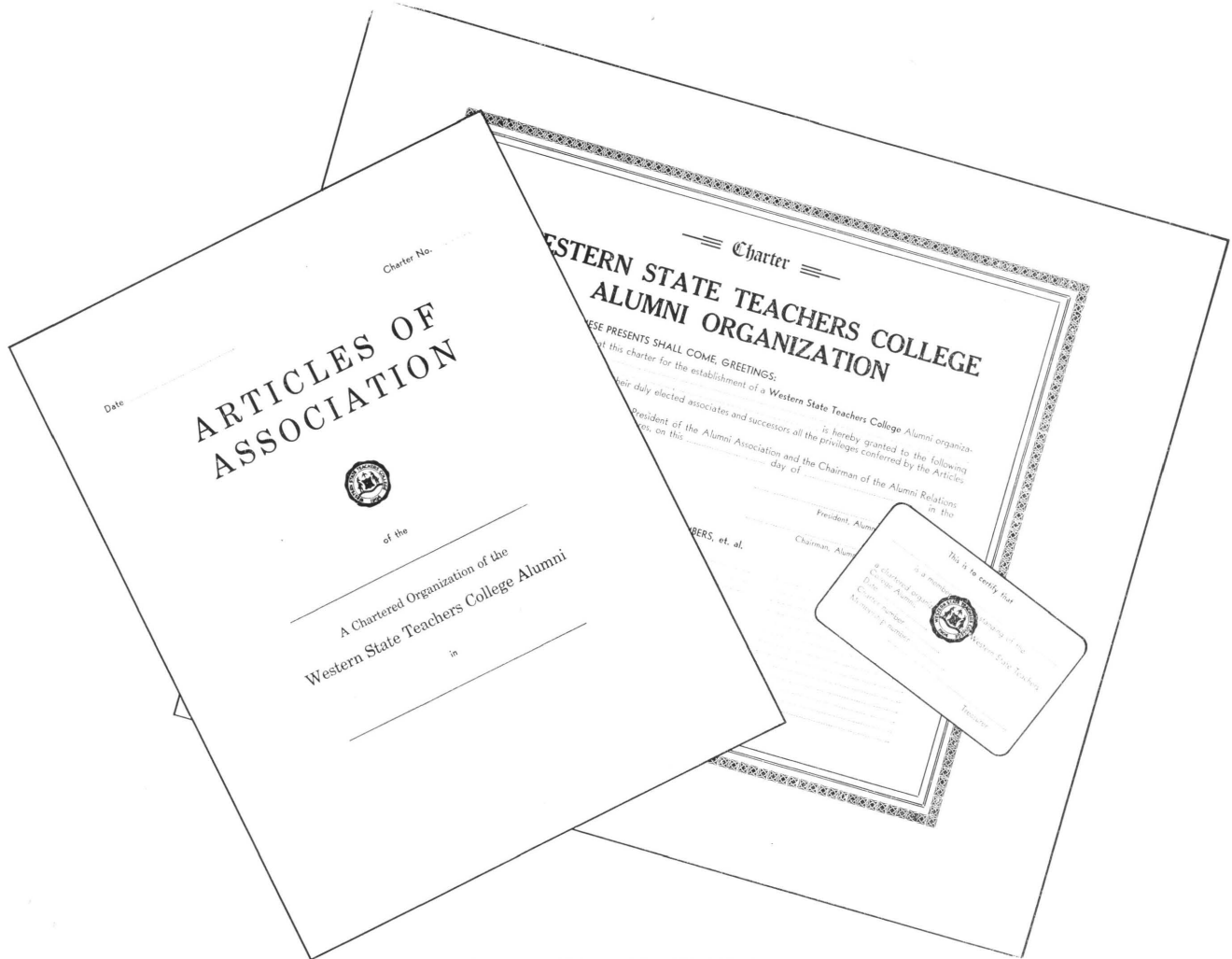
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Volume 3

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Number 3

## Alumni Organizations of WSTC Aid Cause of General Education . .



### Officers' Handbook Also Needed

Articles of Association are always needed in any organization. After a constitution and by-laws, charters, membership cards, and other group conveniences for the most effective planning may be added, and for those who assume the first responsibilities an Officers' Handbook is of great assistance. In an officers' hand-  
(Continued on Page 6)

### Relation of Alumni to the Placement Bureau

by

Lofton V. Burge, Director of Placement

The greatest factor contributing to the placement of graduates at Western is the records which alumni have made and are making in the fields of administration, supervision and classroom teaching in the public schools of Michigan. There are, how-

ever, more direct ways in which alumni affect placement. The writer has found in visitation with many of the most promising students that their selection of Western was influenced in no small degree by some  
(Continued on Page 4)

## Thanksgiving Symbol

by  
Louis Foley

October, 1940

Vol. III No. 3

WSTC Alumni Magazine Committee  
Carl Cooper, '21, Editor and  
Committee Chairman  
Elaine Stevenson, '13, Homer Dunham, '37, Don Pullin, '12, Prof. John E. Fox

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Alumni Organizations an Aid to General Education .....	1
Thanksgiving Symbol, by Louis Foley .....	2
Editorial Comment .....	2
Benton Harbor Sorority Reports Active Year .....	6
Relation of Alumni to the Placement Bureau .....	1
Faculty Study in Teacher Education Continues .....	6
Western's Band .....	4
Campus News Items .....	5
1940-41 Basketball Schedule .....	4
Kalamazoo Alumni Men's Club Elects Henry Ford, Jr. ....	5
Alumni News Notes .....	5

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### Editorial Comment

It is for us to be thankful for well-being in these United States of America this holiday season of 1940. May our gratitude be mingled with a determination to practice good will toward all people. As the whole is nothing more than the sum of all of its parts, so it must be that accumulated acts of kindness can outnumber and displace all others.

At the end of the year following the World War, we were a small group of Americans high in the mountains of Asia Minor, some 750 miles east of Istanbul, or as we then called it, Constantinople. It took more than a month for mail to reach us from the United States. So, well along in December, we were receiving letters from friends at home who had written to us early in November.

At that time, the war was supposed to be over, but the Turks were still fighting on several fronts. To be sure, Istanbul was occupied by Allied troops, but in the interior of the country, where we were located, the Turks were in complete control, and the mails were subject to censorship. We received letters which had been opened, and parts of which were sometimes deleted by the censor.

Now, when you start to read a letter, and find a place where a sentence or a paragraph has been rendered illegible, you naturally become curious as to what it was that the censor chose to obliterate, and that was how we felt about it. We tried our best to figure out what there could have been in those letters that the authorities would not permit us to read. Finally we hit upon the answer, and found it rather amusing. Our friends at home, writing a week or two before Thanksgiving Day, had discussed their plans for that occasion, and in so doing had used the word *turkey*. The Turkish censor, whose knowledge of English was perhaps somewhat sketchy, had jumped to the conclusion that those innocent remarks had political significance involving his country. He therefore struck out the offending passages, no doubt with a feeling of righteous indignation against insidious foreign propaganda. We can imagine how a patriotic Turkish subject might react to the words of a foreigner who announces, "We are going to *eat turkey*!"

At first thought, it might seem strange that a Turk, who had evidently studied English, should so completely misinterpret the meaning of that particular word. Since many things are named for the country

where they originated, one might suppose that what we call a "turkey" was of Turkish origin, just as truly as Turkish coffee, Turkish tobacco, Turkish towels, or the Turkish bath. Surely the native inhabitants of a country ought to be familiar with that country's own specialties. As I continued to turn the thing over in my mind, another thought struck me. Although I had become fairly familiar with the Turkish language, all at once I realized that I did not know the Turkish name of the bird in question. I decided at once to look it up. Fortunately, my French-Turkish dictionary was sufficiently comprehensive. Otherwise it might well have failed to list the word at all, for, as I discovered later, a good many Turkish people did not know it. In due time, however, I came to see how natural it was that they should not.

To my surprise, I found that the word was *hind taoghu*, which literally means "India fowl." Then I perceived also, what had never impressed me before, that the corresponding French word *dinde* means "from India." Here was a puzzling situation. Whereas we had named the bird as if it came from Turkey, various other peoples—notably the Turks themselves—must have thought that it came from India. Yet this anomaly is easy to see through if you happen to be familiar with English popular literature of two or three centuries ago.

In the first place, let us remember that the Turkish empire used to be a great deal larger than it is now. Since it included so much Asiatic territory, English people commonly used to apply the name of "Turkey" to the Orient in general. In eighteenth-century London, a dealer in Oriental goods was regularly called a "Turkey merchant." The color which in English is still called "Turkey red," one of the most durable and beautiful colors which have ever been produced on cotton, is the result of a process which appears to have been invented in India, or at least was practised there from ancient times. So our word *turkey*, which

is a shortened form of the older expression **Turkey-cock** or **Turkey-hen**, is not especially astonishing as the name of something supposed to have come from **India**. Another expression of exactly the same sort, which is now almost completely forgotten, is "Turkey-wheat." It meant what we now know as "**Indian corn**."

This last item hitches up to the subject in more than one way. Of course, from one point of view, it presents a contrast. Whereas, in recent times, we have shortened the compound word **Turkey-cock** by simply using the proper name and spelling it with a small letter, with "**Indian corn**" we have done just the opposite; we have dropped the distinguishing adjective **Indian**, and call it simply "corn," which in England still means grain in general, and especially wheat, just as it does in the King James version of the Bible. On the other hand, a person accustomed to raising turkeys might think of a more practical connection with "corn." But the really interesting point for us here is that both the plant and the bird are natives of our own land of America.

Comparisons with other expressions have shown us that "Turkey" in this case meant India, and so in reality they were both named in the same way. They bear testimony to an ancient error in geography which has left traces in most languages of western Europe. For we remember that the purpose of the voyage of Columbus was to discover a shorter route to **India**, that he thought he had done so, and that to this day the aboriginal inhabitants of both American continents are called **Indians**.

No living creature that we know of is more truly American than the turkey. The bird was unknown in Europe before the discovery of America, but it was not many years after that until specimens were taken across the Atlantic, and the new American fowl began to acquire a reputation in the Old World. The turkey was mentioned by Peter Martyr of Anghiera, a personal acquaintance of Columbus, who was Secretary of the Council of the Indies, which was established very soon after America was discovered. Apparently the species was early introduced into France by Jesuit missionaries who had found it in Canada.

## Basketball Schedule

November 29—Calvin at Kalamazoo.  
 Dec. 7—Open.  
 Dec. 12—Manchester at N. Manchester, Ind.  
 Dec. 14—Franklin College (Ind.) at Kalamazoo.  
 Dec. 16—Calvin College at Grand Rapids.  
 Dec. 18—University of California of Los Angeles at Kalamazoo  
 Dec. 20 or 21—Open.  
 January 1—University of Chicago at Kalamazoo.  
 January 8—Hope College at Kalamazoo.  
 January 17—Miami University at Oxford, Ohio  
 January 18—Ball State Teachers at Muncie, Ind.  
 January 21—University of Mexico at Kalamazoo.  
 January 22—Manchester at Kalamazoo.  
 February 1—Toledo at Kalamazoo.  
 Feb. 15—Loyola (Chicago) at Kalamazoo.  
 Feb. 22—Ball State Teachers at Kalamazoo.  
 Feb. 24—Defiance at Defiance, Ohio  
 February 25—Xavier at Cincinnati.  
 February 27—Wayne University at Detroit.  
 March 1—Defiance at Western

Its success on the tables of Europe is not hard to understand. As we all well know, it combines meat of a distinctive and delicious flavor with the largest size of any bird of its class. Its combination of quality and quantity puts it practically above competition.

Nowadays we think of the turkey as essentially a domestic fowl, but early settlers in this country knew it of course in the wild state. They had no need to raise turkeys, for there were plenty of them everywhere, and their size made them an easy target for even a very mediocre marksman. Probably, indeed, a great many were caught or killed without any expenditure of precious gunpowder. They must have been slaughtered in great numbers, for the species has become comparatively

rare. You can still find them in parts of the West and South, but they are certainly scarce now in New England, where they were plentiful in the days of the early English colonists who, according to tradition, established our custom of eating turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

The turkey is a truly American bird, and figures prominently in our traditional celebration of a peculiarly American feast-day, but he might have become more significantly American than he is. If Benjamin Franklin had had his way about it, our national emblem would have been, not the bald eagle, but the common turkey.

Franklin said he wished the eagle had not been chosen to represent our country, and the thing that aroused him to speak out on the subject was the objection which some people made to a design of the eagle made on a medal—that it looked too much like a turkey! In a letter to his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Bache, written January 26, 1784, he made his position very clear.

"The bald eagle," said Franklin, "is a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly; you may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing-hawk; and, when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him. With all this injustice he is never in good case; but, like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. Besides, he is a rank coward; the little king-bird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district."

Speaking of the **king-bird** then led Franklin into an irresistible pun. Having in mind our republican form of government, he found the eagle a particularly inappropriate emblem, because, as he said, "the brave and honest" Americans had "driven all the **king-birds** from our country."

"I am," said Franklin, "not displeased that the figure . . . looks more like a turkey. For in truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but



## Western's Band

The Western State Teachers College band is one of the oldest institutions on campus. While it is impossible to state just how many of the alumni have been members of this organization, nevertheless, it is

accurate to affirm that hundreds of graduates have enjoyed participation in this music group. The 1940 unit is attracting a great amount of well deserved attention. A trio of twirlers, in conjunction with the band of sixty pieces, is being very ably led by the head drum major and drillmaster.

Considerable attention is being given to the organization this year as a marching band. Three hours of drill each week are being devoted to this phase of the work. A description of this year's organization would be incomplete without mentioning the assistance of a drum majorette.

the turkey was peculiar to ours . . . He is, besides, (though a little vain and silly, it is true, but not the worse emblem for that,) a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British Guards, who should presume to invade his farmyard with a red coat on."

Franklin's sly joke at the expense of British soldiers and their uniforms has of course lost its point now, not only because military fashions have changed but because the animosity of our War of Independence has passed away, and we find ourselves sympathetic toward Britain in the common cause of the democratic institutions which Franklin himself did so much toward achieving. Moreover, we may as well be content with the eagle as a national emblem, rather than the turkey, despite the not illogical arguments in favor of the latter. Yet there is some satisfaction to our patriotic pride in the thought that this thoroughly American fowl is a highly appreciated contribution to the best kitchens of many countries. And the turkey is surely a very appropriate

symbol for our distinctively American feast of Thanksgiving Day.

### Placement Bureau

former graduate under whom they had work in either the grades or high school. Another more direct way in which alumni affect placement is that vacancies are reported to the Placement office or are given directly to graduating students. It is doubtful if 72 percent of the 435 February, June and August graduates would now be teaching had it not been for the cooperation which the Placement Office received from graduates in the field.

While the alumni are aiding in placing recent graduates, the Bureau also extends its service to graduates whose teaching records merit promotion for them. During the past year 321 alumni have been on the active placement list at Western and ninety-six of this number are now teaching in new positions this year. When an alumnus is aided in securing a new teaching situation, he has not only received service from the Bureau, but in many cases he has made it possible for the placement

of an experienced candidate in the position which he is leaving. It is very desirable, therefore, that a greater number of the alumni bring their records in the Placement Office up to date.

The 28 percent of last year's graduates who are not placed, and who in most cases are particularly well qualified for teaching, is indicative of the fact that there is need for an even greater degree of cooperation between the alumni and the Placement Office. A much higher percentage of each year's graduates would be placed if there was a wider distribution of candidates in the various teaching fields. A summary of the placement report for this year shows far more calls in some fields than could be filled, while in other areas of teaching there is a surplus of candidates. Alumni can do a great deal in correcting this condition by advising high school graduates whom they influence to come to Western to seek guidance in selecting fields for which they have the best teaching personalities and in which there will be a probable demand for teachers.



## Alumni News Notes

Devon Smith and Malcolm Mackay were two of Western's graduate who came to the campus for the summer session as instructors, both teaching in the men's Physical Education Department. As a student Devon enrolled on this campus from Delphi, Indiana, and will be remembered by many alumni because of his skill in basketball. He graduated with an A.B. degree in 1937, and went to Three Oaks to coach after graduation. Since 1938 he has been an instructor in the public schools of Dowagiac. Mrs. Smith was also a student at Western Her maiden name was Katryn Scheel.

Malcolm Mackay went as a teacher to the public schools of Jackson after finishing at Western State Teachers College in the class of 1932. On campus he enjoyed several sports and was outstanding in baseball with excellence in the center fielding position, and with a high batting average. After spending the summer session as an instructor at Western State Teachers College, he went to his new position as coach and director of physical education at Holland, Michigan. Mrs. Mackay is also a graduate of Western State Teachers College. She was Constance Hinga, with an A. B. degree in the class of 1932.

Alene Hollinger, A. B., 1936, came to the faculty at Western State Teachers College at the beginning of this first semester of 1940-41. Miss Hollinger had a previous certification in the later elementary department in 1931. More recently she has obtained a master of arts degree at Northwestern University. Her assignment on Western's faculty is at the Paw Paw Training School.

Following the summer session, Miss Alice Haefner was married to Mr. Maxwell D. Conway. She is now residing at 4714 Bedford Road, Detroit. Mrs. Conway graduated in the department of commerce in 1926 and since that time has been serving as records clerk on campus.

A member of the graduating class of 1940 is remaining to teach in one of the training schools off campus. Sherwin Powell did his bachelor of science work in the industrial arts



Henry Ford, Jr., President  
Kalamazoo Alumni Men's Club

department. His home is in Kalamazoo.

The third president of the WSTC Men's Club of Kalamazoo is Mr. Henry Ford, Jr. Henry succeeds Tom Howson, B. S. '34 who in turn was preceded in office by the organization's first president, Fred Adams, A. B. '32. Henry Ford is a practicing attorney in the city, having taken a pre-professional course on Western's campus before entering the Law Department at the University of Michigan.

A recent meeting of the executive board of the club was held to discuss 1940-41 activities. An immediate membership drive was one of the first items agreed upon. Russell Doney and Fred Adams were made co-chairmen and others on the membership and attendance committee are Bernard Marthen, Francis Corbatt, Rudel Miller, Forrest Terry, Clarence J. Swan, and Bernard Willage.

John Pikkaart, vice-president of the club, was placed in charge of programs for the year. Members of his committee are Gordan Knapp, Larry Matson, Sam Boerman, and Wilbur Coombs.

One of the projects of the year has been the granting of a scholarship of \$100 to a worthy student on campus. Plans are being made to augment the club's scholarship fund and all phases of this activity will be handled directly by the Execut-

ive Committee of the club.

The next regular monthly meeting of the club is to be held at Walwood Union Building Monday evening, November 25.

Zack York, A. B. '37, has joined the staff of the Speech Department. His previous teaching experience was done in the Hastings public schools. Following a limited teaching certification in the Rural Department he taught in the rural schools of Michigan for a time. He spent the academic year of 1939-40 at Yale University. Zack's home town is Portland, Michigan.

Harry Hefner, A. B. '36, has come to the faculty to teach in the Art Department. His previous teaching experience was done at Cranbrook, Muskegon and at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York. Harry's masters degree was obtained at Columbia University. His home is in Detroit.

John Pikkaart, of the class of 1933, now practicing Law in Kalamazoo, comes to the campus to teach some courses in commerce. After finishing his work at Western in '33, he enrolled in the Law Department at the University of Michigan. After successfully passing the Michigan bar examination, he associated himself with a law firm in his home city.

Lawrence Brink is continuing his service as an instructor in the Printing Department. He obtained a bachelor of arts degree in the class of 1940.

## Campus News Items

The 1940 Freshman class this fall numbers 716. In the group are 364 men and 352 women.

The new greenhouse on the campus is in use.

The next excursion trip to Chicago sponsored by Western State Teachers College is to be December 7. Many alumni avail themselves of this opportunity to go to Chicago, and they are welcome.

The new Lavina Spindler Residence Hall for Women, the Walwood Residence Hall and the newly named Henry B. Vandercook Residence Hall for Men make it possible for a total of 520 students to live on-campus.

book may be found the essential features of a successful club, possibilities for growth found workable in other localities, and ways of going about the details of promoting membership, getting committee work done, and the sponsoring of programs which make group endeavor worth more than it costs.

The first thing for one or more WSTC graduates to do in any locality is to obtain a list of the alumni in the immediate neighborhood. The source of that information is the geographical file in the office of the alumni secretary. Such a list is available for the asking.

The second step is the issuing of an invitation to the group to gather to discuss and evaluate reasons for organization. At the first meeting it is very probable that purposes will develop, results of group planning versus individual endeavor will present themselves, and the advantages of acquaintance, opportunities to be well informed, and the values of obtaining and maintaining living contacts will be evident. Keeping Western State Teachers College always before the community in the most attractive and accurate light, connection with the intellectual life of the college, and the educational movements of the day, the fostering of friendships with local undergraduates and their families, and the continuing of alumni interest in the college are other products of local organization of the alumni which will undoubtedly emerge.

At the first meeting it is possible for the temporary chairman to appoint some committees to report at a later date, and one of these will undoubtedly be a committee on articles of association. Temporary officers may be chosen until such a time as the nominating committee may do its work and report, and all present may be of assistance to the membership committee.

Following the above preliminary planning, the next steps are adoption of articles of association, the election of officers, and the appointment of a committee on membership, one on programs, another on publicity, etc.

Having accomplished all of the above factors in successful group planning, a working unit is available, and the objectives of uniting for definite and concrete results may be undertaken.



Helyn Burkland Wooley  
President WSTC Sorority at  
Benton Harbor

The 1940 program of an alumnae organization of Western State Teachers College women in Benton Harbor has been a busy one. Meetings have been held regularly on the first Thursday of each month and much planning has taken place.

A complete reorganization of the sorority's constitution has been accomplished. The name has been changed, purposes have been multiplied, applications for membership broadened, and an arrangement has been included whereby the alumni office on the campus may have a nominal income for the expense of assistance in helping clubs to organize.

Monthly programs of the club have consisted of musicals, the collection of scrap book copy, the yearly operetta work, annual house-party or a sail on the Great Lakes planning, talks on such subjects as, "Women in Politics," "Appreciation of Natural Resources," etc., and not the least of recent undertakings—the elaborate tea served in honor of the faculty of Western State Teachers College on the occasion of their stay at the Whitcomb Hotel in St. Joseph when an educational conference was in session.

Among this year's endeavors has been the sponsoring of two fifty-dollar scholarships. Two students on

Western's campus have each been awarded a scholarship of \$50.00.

A list of the membership follows:

Harriet Burridge Snyder, Dorothy Hauser Ender, Ruth Marceau Peterson, Helyn Burkland Wooley, Hope Pangborn Bowen, R.N., Thelma Noack Ziegert, Lucille Jackson Schram, Anna Haas Houseworth, Verlan E. Ellison, R. N., Rose Carolyn Bittner, H. Florine Weber, Fredelia N. Tuttle, Dorothy Ann Stemm, Genevieve Eandy Frey, Lucille Abbott Nobbs, Catharine Burrell Thompson, Dorothy Curtis Hallam, Lucille Rix Foncanon, Blanche Dempsey Troffer, Louadell Cutler Cassler, Sarah Ann Smart, Alice Swigert, Velma Menchinger, R.N., Adeline Graves Blakeslee, Virginia Bundy, Adeline Blakeslee Nelthrope, Jessie M. Cooper, Lois E. Richard, Frances Peterson Holmes, Irma Sajban, Florence Bundy Epple, Elizabeth S. DeLano, Helen Graham Beal, Clara D. Krieger, Amethyst Donaldson Golden, E. June Peterson, Helen Paul Calvin.

## Faculty Study in Teacher Education Continues

This is the beginning of the second year of WSTC faculty education study in cooperation with thirty-three other educational institutions in the United States. Western State Teachers College is one of the 150 members, more or less, of the American Association of Teachers Colleges participating in this cooperative study.

President Sangren and Dr. George Hilliard, faculty co-ordinator of the Faculty Education Study, were in Mt. Summit, Pennsylvania for a four day conference just recently. The discussions during the conference centered around the five major problems of (1) organizing and working to make leadership function, (2) instituting actual implementation, (3) utilizing outside services in solution of problems, (4) keeping and using records, and (5) meeting responsibilities of cooperating units to teacher education generally.