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April 1956
Vol. 1, No. 5

LETTER

Busy Time of Year

Placement Activity Up As Seniors Seek Employment

The seeming madness which annually grips the Western Michigan College placement office has seized it again, and the rush is on for teachers, office workers and all types of college graduates.

Of particular interest, in light of the growing school crisis, is the placement of teachers. Vern E. Mabie, director of placement and alumni relations, finds his office filled daily from morning to night with prospective employers coming to meet with students proficient in the areas they are now trying to fill.

And its not only Southwestern Michigan schools which must be served but from the entire state and midwest. Also visitors from coast to coast can be found on talent searches for teachers. The opportunities for our young graduates are numerous

and the pay being offered new prospects is moving rapidly up the scale.

Perhaps the average senior finds it all a bit overwhelming, and there is the need for closer examination of the offers. But, as the placement office provides a weekly bulletin service of job opportunities and of expected schoolmen and their times of visiting, the seniors are frequently able to narrow down their choices (picking because of proximity to their home, distance from their home, because of the place their fiance will be next year or myriad other reasons), and the talent scout will usually find a list of appointments awaiting him.

But this service is not alone for those now graduating, as is revealed in the report of the 1954-55 services provided by the office. Dur-

ing that time 493 alumni registered for placement and 347 of them accepted new positions.

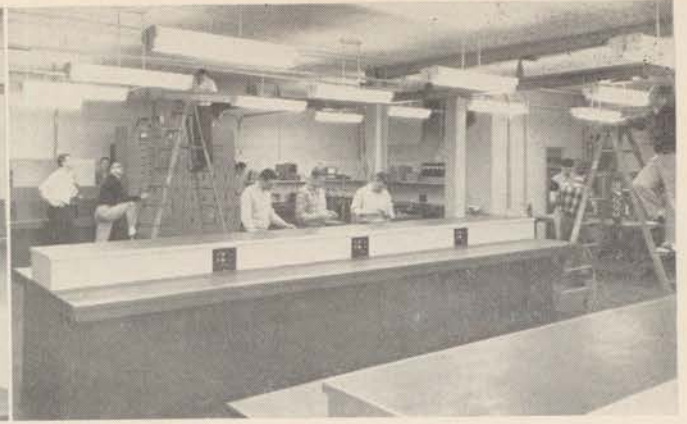
Mabie points out however, that the pressure is not alone from scheduling appointments. It begins in accumulating all of the information and recommendations needed on seniors and others, and continues through the appointment scheduling. Then there are innumerable phone calls, telegrams and letters.

As Western Michigan becomes a more diversified college, it also becomes a more attractive calling place for harried personnel man, and each year finds more and more demand for business and industrial positions.

Placement is a demanding job, but one of those facets of a large college which brings a considerable satisfaction to those working closely with it.

Heads Home Economists

Dr. Eunice Herald, head of the Western Michigan College home economics department, will become president of the Michigan Home Economics Association at its annual meeting in Saginaw, May 5.



Electronics Building New Classroom Home

Electrical, Radio-TV Work Given Impetus

A solid brick building can hide many uses behind its red exterior, and such has been the fate of the one-time Central Heating Plant, later Garage and now the Electronics building.

Built at an original cost of \$40,000, the heating plant was opened in the spring of 1915, serving the few college buildings on the hill behind it to the east. Its original use continued until the early '20's, when the heating load was shifted to the state hospital facilities nearby.

(Action by the 1956 legislature will bring an eventual expenditure of \$3,000,000 on this state hospital facility so that it may better serve both state operations. A considerable operating saving can be realized by expanding this present plant rather than building a new and separate plant for the college.)

With its original use appropriated by the new hookup, the old heating plant was quickly dismantled and the area turned into a garage for college busses and cars. That use continued down to the present time, when finally new garage fa-

cilities were included in the addition to the maintenance building.

Classes had for many years been held on the second floor of the garage, but were finally banned because of the unsafe proximity to the garage and poor access to the upper story.

As soon as the garage was vacated, reconstruction began again to turn the building into classroom quarters for the industrial technology depart-

The lower level has been allocated to the electronics work, and in the accompanying pictures it can be seen that much work has been accomplished. As equipment becomes available, it will be added to the present layout. Much of the installation work has actually been completed by students, under the direction of Glade Wilcox.

On the second floor long benches



ment. Both radio and TV classes and those in electronics had been housed in inadequate quarters in the industrial arts annex and natural science building.

Poor instructional areas hampered the work of teachers and held up rapid advancement of students. Here was ample floor space, with few obstructions, and an opportunity for development of the area.

provide ample work space for students of radio and television. Testing equipment is handy to worktables on shelves above, and a large storage area for parts and supplies has been hidden in the areaway between the work benches.

At the far end is also provided a work room, classroom and an office for Donald Black, the instructor in radio and TV.

WMCR Observes Fifth Birthday; Garneau Director

WMCR, Western Michigan College's FM station, observed its fifth birthday on April 23, that being the date on which it first received its license from the Federal Communication Commission to operate on 400 watts of power.

Such operation continued for four years, but through the generosity of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, it was possible a year ago to boost the power to 36,000 watts.

The Kellogg gift of \$7,000 was used to purchase the FM equipment of a Battle Creek commercial station and to install it in the WMCR studios atop Maybee hall.

Programming is now for more than 40 hours a week, with special broadcasts from 2 to 3 Mondays through Fridays for classroom use in area schools.

With the increased power, WMCR has extended its listening area more than 50 miles from Kalamazoo, and a satisfying response has been received from far and near. FM set owners not now registered with WMCR are asked to contact the station so as to receive complete program listings. The station also carries live broadcasts of major Bronco athletic events.

Wallace Garneau has served as station manager since its inception, and Glen Bishop is the chief engineer.

A Look Ahead

The May issue of the WMC News Magazine is planning coverage of three retiring faculty members, as well as a closer look at reorganization plans for the college.

If you are curious as to the philosophy behind the basic studies program, you may find your answer in that issue.



Grover C. Baker

Grover Baker Dies March 26

Grover C. Baker, an assistant professor of physics, died March 26, after a brief illness.

Mr. Baker came to Western in 1942, after 22 years of service at Ferris Institute, Big Rapids. He was registrar of that school from 1929 to 1942. His teaching career had begun in 1905 in small country schools and continued until his death.

Mr. Baker is survived by his wife and three daughters, Mrs. Dan Welborn, Mrs. Harold Kennedy and Mrs. J. B. Coffindoffer.

Services were held in Otsego and burial was at Spring Lake.

Big Kalamazoo County Botanical Collection Given to Adams Center

Western Michigan College has come into possession of one of the nation's most outstanding county flora collections, that of Kalamazoo County plants made by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hanes of Schoolcraft.

Added to the Charles C. Adams Center for Ecological Studies, this collection has all of the 1,731 species of plants known to be native to the county; with the complete collection numbering more than 2,500 plants, many of them from St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties.

Dr. Daniel Jackson, director of the Adams Center, was naturally pleased with the acquisition, and points out that the collection will be retained intact in a special room in the Natural Science building.

Mrs. Hanes was a onetime Western student, and together with her husband spent long hours searching the highways and fields of the county for specimens, which were brought back to their Schoolcraft home to be dried and prepared for display.

But the Hanes' work did not end with the mere collection. They as-

sisted in the cataloging of plants, consulted frequently with the nation's top botanists, and won frequent praise for their diligence and scientific devotion.

Then, in 1947, they published a book, *Flora of Kalamazoo County, Vascular Plants*, a living monument to their lifelong work. The late great Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, a native of South Haven, wrote from his Cornell University laboratory, "This *Flora* is an excellent piece of work from the botanical and the manufacturing points of view. It is one of the best contributions of its kind."

Dr. Jackson informs us that the Hanes' gift also includes more than 300 copies of this book, for which the Adams Center will continue as the agent. Any profits derived from its future sale will be turned back into the Hanes collection.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanes continued their work even after publication of their book, being only halted early this year by the death of Mr. Hanes.

Dr. Jackson says, "We are certain-

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New Program at Coldwater Home To Be Launched

Western Michigan College and the Coldwater State Home and Training School for mentally defective children will enter into a cooperative training program this summer, providing graduate study experience for feminine graduate students.

At least three or four women will go to the Coldwater school next summer for six weeks of practical experience for which they will receive six hours of graduate credit at the college. Dr. Frank Fatzinger of the psychology department is coordinating the project for the college.

For the last three years Western Michigan has conducted a similar program in cooperation with Warden William Bannon of the Southern Michigan Prison at Jackson, for male students. Last year 10 students worked within the walls of the prison as counselors, teachers, coaches and testing personnel.

Dr. Fatzinger says at the Coldwater school this year they will be particularly interested in applicants to work in special education, physical education, occupational therapy, social work and psychology.

May Baseball

May 1—Michigan State
May 4—Notre Dame
May 5—At Notre Dame
May 11, 12—Marshall
May 18, 19—At Ohio U.
May 25, 26—Bowling Green
May 29, 30—Wisconsin
June 2—At Michigan State

Giachino to Aid Pakistan Schools

The skills in teaching and organizing of technical education gathered by Dr. J. W. Giachino of the Western Michigan College faculty will soon be put into use in far off Pakistan.

Dr. Giachino, head of the industrial technology department, is to leave Kalamazoo late in June with his family to take up residence in Dacca, Pakistan, where he will work on programs at the community college level for the Ford Foundation.

Dr. Giachino has an outstanding record in industrial education which has been recognized by his election as vice president and president of the Michigan Industrial Education Society in 1951-1953.

Also, during four years of Navy service as a lieutenant commander in World War II, his duties were largely involved in air technical training.

Early Morning Reading Class

Kalamazoo business and professional people interested in improving their reading rates and comprehension will have an opportunity this summer to take such a specialized course from Homer L. J. Carter and the staff of the Western Michigan College psycho-educational clinic.

A class meeting from 7:30 to 8:20 each morning, Monday through Friday, will begin Tuesday, June 19, and continue through July 27.

Aims of the course, as listed by Carter, include: building a more adequate vocabulary, developing skill in chapter and report reading, increasing skill in problem solving, aiding in concentration, developing critical reading and increasing the rate of reading.

Hanes Collection

(From Page 3)

ly indebted here at Western to Mr. and Mrs. Hanes for their great generosity in providing this collection for the Adams Center. Their long years of work will always be appreciated by the generations of students who will have an opportunity to profit from their example."

Also included in the Hanes collection are from 100 to 150 books on botany, dating back to 1839.

WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

News LETTER

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

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Russell A. Strong, Editor