Western Michigan University Newsletter, January 1961

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BUSINESS, INDUSTRY COOPERATION SOUGHT

Expansion of Archives to Serve Southwestern Michigan

A refocusing of the archives at Western Michigan University to include the people, business and industry of Southwestern Michigan, and the development of a distinctive regional collection has been announced by Dr. Alan Brown, University archivist, and the archives committee.

Already steps in this direction have been implemented and the University has acquired through the kind offices of the Three Rivers Library Board a fine collection of St. Joseph County papers, including those in Centreville, Three Rivers and Constantine dating back before the Civil War.

“We know every day that fine historical material is lost or destroyed,” says Dr. Brown. “And it is our sincere hope that we may contribute to the historical knowledge of the development of the past of Michigan by collecting and cataloging the record of the past. We consider it a service to the people of this part of the state to preserve their historical heritage.”

Dr. Brown also points out that many ancient items, including newspapers, cannot be properly stored, preserved, used or catalogued, unless they are placed in such an archive. With an abundance of storage space available and skilled historians to guide usage, Western Michigan can provide a rare opportunity for qualified scholars from the entire area to locate needed materials.

Not only is Dr. Brown interested in acquiring other newspapers to add to the already significant start, but he is also interested in obtaining materials concerning the development of Southwestern Michigan, and in particular its business and industry.

Mrs. Robert Kramb, Three Rivers, recently presented to the WMU Archives an interesting set of Spanish-American War letters, which are now being edited for publication.

Another significant collection is the papers of Dwight B. Waldo and Dr. Paul V. Sangren, Western’s first two presidents, and Dr. Ernest Burnham, the first head of the department of rural life and education. The value of these two collections would be greatly enhanced, however, if they contained more letters written by Waldo and Burnham. Correspondents of these two men are thus urged to get in touch with Dr. Brown.

“We hope to expand our materials in rural life and education,” says Dr. Brown, pointing out that Western has long been one of the national leaders in this area. He feels that there are many letters and other documents held privately in Southwestern Michigan.

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A new high school textbook in general science has just been published by McGraw-Hill and Co., and is the work of Dr. and Mrs. George G. Mallinson, and Richard F. Welch. Dr. Mallinson is dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Welch is a former WMU graduate student now teaching in Dearborn.

**Giant New Structure Underway**

The $3,578,000 Natural Science building, long talked of on the campus, became a bit more than a vision as ground was broken by President James W. Miller in his first public act as Western’s third president at ceremonies Jan. 3. Two weeks later the landscape had been altered as shown on the picture above, with the portion of the building paralleling West Michigan avenue scheduled for completion in February, 1962. A map at the right shows something of the comparative size of this new building with other nearby academic buildings. Dr. Miller is shown at the left with the first shovel of dirt.

Dr. Miller said at the groundbreaking: "While we are excited by the prospect of occupying this new building in the near future, we must be forthrightly frank in saying that the present physical needs of Western’s students and faculty require a sustained building program of at least one new major construction start for each of the immediate ensuing years ... The students are here in better than twice the numbers of eight years ago; the prospects for substantial increases in enrollment are staggering. Western wants qualitatively sound teaching, research and service programs. To want less is to want not enough."

**Offer Minor in Asian Studies**

An Asian Studies minor has been inaugurated at the University, offering students a new opportunity for studies in the non-western world.

“The critical importance of Communist China, India and Japan to the world today needs little emphasis; the fact that America has far too few specialists or even generalists equipped to deal with problems in this area at the local, national, or international level is the genesis of our program,” says Melvin W. Wachs, chairman of the Far East-South Asia committee.

The program is intended to acquaint students interested in this region of the world with the history, culture, geography, economics and contemporary politics of the Far East and South Asia.
Four Grants Aid In Establishment of Summer Institutes

Four federal grants for the summer session totalling $184,400 will bring four special institutes to the Western Michigan campus this summer. Three are provided through the National Science Foundation and one through the National Defense Education Act.

The Institutes are:

Junior high school teachers of science—Forty teachers for eight weeks, beginning June 19, with Dean George G. Mallinson as the director.

Physics for junior college teachers of physics—Thirty-two teachers for six weeks, beginning June 19, with Dr. Haym Kruglak as director. The aim of this institute is to enrich the subject matter background of the teachers.

High school teachers of mathematics—Sixty teachers for six weeks, starting June 19, with Dr. James H. Powell as the director.

Counseling and guidance training institute—Thirty-five teachers and counselors, beginning June 19, with Dr. Arthur Manske as director.

Last year Western was fortunate in having three such institutes on the campus, and it marks the second year for the counseling and guidance institute.

All are designed to improve the competence of public school teachers, and to make them more effective in their classroom communication. The counseling and guidance institute is limited to counselors and to teachers preparing to become counselors, all administrators being excluded.

Application should be made to the appropriate director as soon as possible. Stipends, tuition and fees, and travel expenses are provided for those who are accepted for the summer study.

Forty-six outstanding freshmen are participating in the freshman honors' program this year. This consists of several special class sections, and an intensified program to give added intellectual content to their collegiate studies.

Dr. Joseph C. McCully, associate professor of mathematics, has received a National Science Foundation grant for the 1961-62 academic year to study at Harvard University. His research will be in "certain problems connected with geometry."

Dr. Chester L. Hunt, professor of sociology, will return to the Philippines, where he taught at the University of the Philippines from 1952 to 1954. This time he will teach general sociology at Silliman University.

Dr. Hunt, a prominent figure locally in human relations work, during his previous stay in the Islands authored a textbook on sociology which is widely used there.

Archives Expansion

(Continued from Page 1) western Michigan which would add materially to this collection.

Persons interested in using the archives or in discussing possible additions should contact Dr. Brown.

Eddy, Hunt Given Fulbright Grants

Two WMU faculty members have been granted Fulbright lectureships and will teach abroad during the next academic year.

Robert P. Eddy of the School of Education faculty will be at the University of Santiago, Chile, where he will hold the Chair in Educaion at the Latin American Center for the Training of Specialists.

He will also have the opportunity to interpret the principles of American education in speeches at most of the major South American universities. He will return to the campus in January, 1962.

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Lessen Tooth Decay
Aim of New Study

The University, through Dr. Robert Nagler, assistant professor of chemistry, is participating in a long term and very interesting project aimed at a sharp reduction in tooth decay.

Several hundred Kalamazoo area infants are being given special vitamin drops, provided by the Upjohn Company, which are flourine fortified, and at some intervals will be checked to see how the flourine may have hardened their teeth and lessened tooth decay.

Dr. Frederick J. Margolis, Kalamazoo pediatrician, heads the study, which is supported by the National Institute of Health. Also cooperating are the Wayne State University Medical School and the Michigan Department of Health.

Robert P. Dye, WMCR director, has also been named director of television for the University.

Nigerian Project Develops

Western is proud of its new association with Africa, in its educational project at Ibadan, Nigeria. A team of five persons from the University will begin teaching classes there this month, headed by Frank Scott of the engineering and technology faculty. At the top right is shown the new administration building for the Nigerian school, and at the bottom are members of the staff including, left to right, Harry Kirk, English principal, Dr. Fred Beeler, John Bendix, Frank Pyne, Kenneth Oleson, and Scott.