

Morehead State Normal School and Teachers' College

By J. VIRGIL CHAPMAN, *Director of Field Service*

WE REJOICE that this is distinctively an age of progress and that we live in a land of progress. What was recently only a typical mountain town is now a thriving, hustling, forward-looking little city, the seat of Morehead Teachers' College. A hardy, substantial, patriotic, home-loving, God-fearing people provide a suitable background and congenial atmosphere for such an institution.

This new member of the sisterhood of Kentucky Colleges occupies the site of the old "Morehead Normal College," which was founded in 1887 by General William T. Withers, of Lexington, Mrs. Phoebe Button and her young son, Frank. For a third of a century it was supported and controlled by the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society and the Christian Women's Board of Missions. The Kentucky General Assembly of 1922 provided for two additional State normal schools for Kentucky, and one of these was subsequently located at Morehead.

When the Commission announced this decision, many

citizens of other communities contesting for this honor were displeased, but virtually all good people of this wonderful section of Eastern Kentucky are now of one accord in their commendation and loyal support of this splendid institution. Its marvelous growth is a constant source of pride and satisfaction to those who are familiar with its achievements.

Situated on the Midland Trail (U. S. No. 60) and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at the junction of the North Fork, midway between Lexington and Ashland, the Morehead State Normal School and Teachers' College, with its magnificent new buildings of classic design, cannot fail to attract the attention and elicit the admiration of thousands who travel these thoroughfares. The

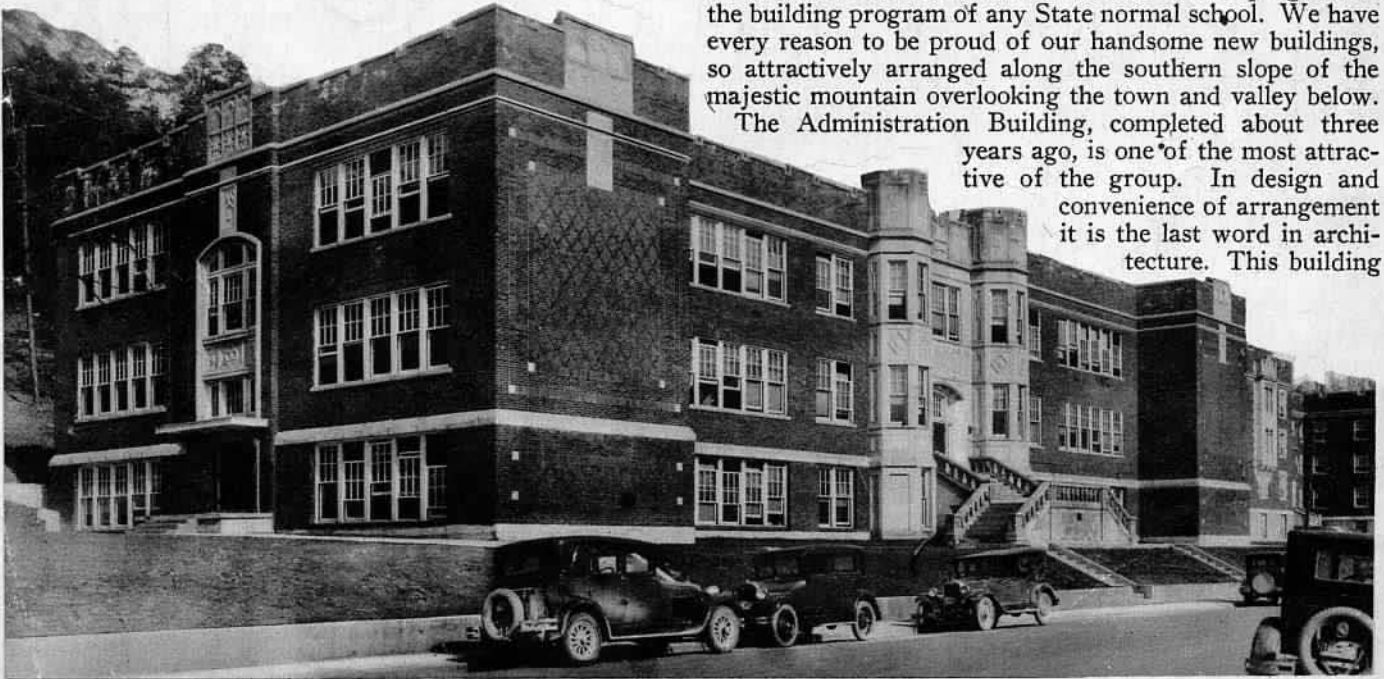


Allie Young Hall, Morehead.

mountain background and the stately forest trees, with hundreds of bright, happy and hopeful young men and women actively engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, add charm to the picture.

Speaking of progress, rarely if ever in the history of education has there been more marvelous progress in the building program of any State normal school. We have every reason to be proud of our handsome new buildings, so attractively arranged along the southern slope of the majestic mountain overlooking the town and valley below.

The Administration Building, completed about three years ago, is one of the most attractive of the group. In design and convenience of arrangement it is the last word in architecture. This building



Administration Building, Morehead.

provides not only administrative offices but also class rooms, laboratories and a valuable and workable growing library; a popular place for instructors and students. An attractive and commodious library building is already planned.

The three dormitories are as handsome, comfortable, convenient, and well furnished as any in the State. In many respects they are probably not excelled in the South. Allie Young Hall accommodates one hundred and forty-five women; Fields Hall accommodates one hundred and sixty-five, and Thompson Hall for boys provides adequate room for the same number. All these structures are of fire-proof construction, and all have modern conveniences. The parlors and reception rooms are well arranged and beautifully furnished.

Burgess Hall, the oldest building on the campus, is really a relic of former days. It forms a connecting link between the past and the present. It now serves as a home for the president and provides a temporary auditorium and the book store. The new home for the president and family will be finished this spring.

Nearing completion is our new auditorium-gymnasium, which is being constructed on the west end of the campus, thus adding symmetry and beauty to the picture as viewed from the Midland Trail or from the fast "air mail" line soon to pass over our interesting community. This is the sixth splendid building erected here in the past six years. When it is completed Morehead Teachers' College can boast of the finest and best equipped "gym" in this section of the country. In fact, we doubt that one could find its superior in the South.

The exterior is of Tudor Gothic design, of brick walls and white stone trimmings. The entrance lobby, with grand stairway to the balcony, immediately attracts attention of the visitor by the terrazzo floor and stairs and ornamental plaster ceiling.

The auditorium seats fifteen hundred people on the first floor and balcony. The stage is twenty-five feet deep and eighty feet wide, the proscenium opening thirty-four feet wide and nineteen feet high. It is provided with an orchestra pit, dressing rooms, and all modern equipment such as footlights, dimming arrangements, motor generator set and motion picture apparatus.

One of the "major objectives," as set forth by the National Education Association and other authorities, is health education. More stress is now placed upon this feature of modern education than ever before. More-



President's home, Morehead.

head's progress along this line has been phenomenal.

Late in the season of 1924 our first football practice was held. Only two boys on the squad had ever seen a football game. Out of the five games played that year we won three. Interest in this sport, strength of the team, and success in contests have grown steadily from year to year. Last year our team won seven college games out of the nine games scheduled.

Baseball has been very popular from the beginning, and Morehead has every year won the majority of games with the strongest teams that could be scheduled.

But, speaking of athletics, really, as Al Jolson says, "You ain't seen nothin' yet." With our splendid new gymnasium, we are expecting to make things hum in basketball and track activities. In addition to this, we have planned a thorough course in physical education for all the boys and girls in the institution. The purpose of this course is two-fold: first, to build strong and healthy bodies for the teacher-students themselves; second, to train them that they may go into the rural districts and graded and high schools of the country and put these same methods into practice among the children in their schools. Thus may be materialized and vitalized the old Latin slogan, *Mens sana in corpore sano*.

The hill country of Eastern Kentucky has long been retarded in its development. For many years bad roads and the lack of modern transportation facilities prevented wholesome contact with people of other sections. This isolation, poor soil, inadequate and inconvenient markets

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Fields Hall—dormitory for girls, Morehead.



Left wing of Thompson Hall with end of Administration Building at left.

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for farm products, and sometimes inaccessibility to church and school, would naturally obscure the vision of less heroic souls and discourage them in their efforts to succeed.

But the natives of these mountain counties are a brave and hardy people. In their veins courses the purest Anglo-Saxon blood in America. They are descendants of sturdy, patriotic pioneers who "always faced their enemy, knelt only to their God," and who labored and fought that we might "enjoy the blessings of liberty."

State and national highways, automobiles, improved country roads, rural routes, telephones, radio and other modern conveniences are placing these people in touch with the world. Truly a new day has dawned. "Progress" is their watchword. Morehead Teachers' College, through the division of agriculture and other extension work, has arranged courses to meet mountain conditions. The purpose of this school is to serve its people.

One who travels through the mountains today cannot fail to note the marked improvement in farms, homes, roads, rural and village schools—nearly all of it a direct result of education and a new awakening of all the people.

The Morehead school is playing an active part in these changing conditions. We offer courses in horticulture, dairying, poultry keeping, home improvement, and other subjects that appeal strongly to the people of Eastern Kentucky. Our students are going back home to touch their communities with an uplifting power that means so much for progress. We sponsor agricultural fairs, cooperate with county agents, and try to render a real service to all our citizens.

The mountains have not been given full credit by many "social workers" who have sought to say or do something spectacular. Some of them have endeavored to find the most dilapidated school or home, an ancient log cabin or the very roughest mountain road and they say, "these are typical mountain conditions." We now have many modern rural homes, fine consolidated school and standard high schools, together with more law-abiding citizens than some of the cities and centers of wealth, population and so-called "culture."

The Morehead faculty is composed of men and women of character, common sense, scholarship, training and experience. We have no over-cultured, highly specialized, impractical geniuses on our faculty, but real red-blooded, sympathetic, altruistic men and women, who love God and humanity and try to serve them both.

With such a faculty, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., and other student organizations, with Christian men and women in charge of dormitories, with board and room rent at a nominal rate and excellent cafeteria service on the campus with delightful mountain air and inspiring scenery on every side, Morehead is an ideal place to spend the summer, secure credits and grow strong. Here you get your money's worth.

We have been fortunate in having faithful, loyal men and women on our board of regents. The father of this institution, Judge Allie W. Young, to whose untiring efforts we are indebted for its existence and for liberal appropriations which have made possible the building program, has been a member of the board since it was created. His vision, vigilance and energy have been

largely responsible for increased appropriations for all our State Normal Schools. Other members are Mrs. S. M. Bradley, of Morehead; Judge Earl W. Senff, of Mt. Sterling; Mr. Glenn E. Perry, of Owingsville, and the ex-officio member and chairman, Mr. W. C. Bell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. To the board, to the sterling character of President F. C. Button, to former State Superintendent McHenry Rhoads, and to the efficient service of a strong, conscientious, well-trained faculty, and inspiring student body, all credit is due. We are not grown, but growing.

The copies of the magazine which I have already seen reveal it as a publication of which the State may well be proud. I find it very interesting and typographically excellent. With thanks.—Arthur Krock, *The New York Times*, New York City.

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Enclose check for \$2.00 for subscriptions. I enjoy reading the magazine very much. It is one of the most beautiful pieces of printing that I have ever seen, and being a booster of "Old Kentucky" I am for you when it comes to advertising Kentucky to the world.—Robt. J. Hagan, Sturgis, Ky.

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We have given these magazines out from time to time and we find the readers are calling for them as well as new readers. They praise them very highly and I personally know of four cattlemen that made a trip to your State through the reading of your magazine.—The Campaign County Auto Club, By Edjel C. Lutz, Secretary, Urbana, Ohio.

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1929

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