

Bowling Green (Ohio) State Univer.  
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BGSU's Little Red Schoolhouse

A perfect example of the frivolous use of public funds came with the approval by the state controlling board of spending \$50,000 to move a century-old, one-room schoolhouse from a Norwalk area farm to the campus of Bowling Green State University.

This commitment of tax dollars for a venture of dubious worth was the pet project of State Rep. Arthur Wilkowski — a BGSU alumnus — who maneuvered it through the General Assembly last year. It is Mr. Wilkowski's belief that, since BGSU began as a teachers' college, "it seems appropriate to me that the schoolhouse be relocated there."

It is true that there are those private citizens and university educators who are agog over the prospect of having a little red-brick one-roomer transplanted to the campus to be used as a repository for educational memorabilia. And since the university relies on the good will of state lawmakers on occasion, it was naturally in no position to dampen Mr. Wilkowski's enthusiasm once he started to persuade his colleagues to appropriate the \$50,000 required to make it all happen.

But there is a question of priorities here, as Rep. Charles Kurfess — also a BGSU alumnus — pointed out in explaining why he could not go along with such an unwise expenditure of public funds. "Regretfully, in light of today's fiscal circumstances generally and in

higher education specifically, I cannot in good conscience ask for your support in the project at Bowling Green," he told the House, "and therefore cannot support it myself."

If alumni or other private interests want to make donations to pay for moving this ancient schoolhouse onto the campus, let them do so. But why should Ohio taxpayers foot the bill to the tune of \$50,000 for Mr. Wilkowski's grand gesture toward his alma mater? It only reinforces the impression in many minds that there are always some eager politicians who are willing to spend money on any foolish item that comes along, as long as the dollars come out of the pockets of taxpayers.

Aside from the money involved, this project involves a matter of esthetics. In moving an old building into a new environment, great care is needed in seeing that the right kind of planning is done to provide the proper, harmonizing setting. Otherwise, regardless of how much nostalgia oozes out of a one-room schoolhouse, it could look as out of place on a college campus as that rickety log cabin does in the middle of the Toledo Zoo.

That may be no problem, of course, at BGSU. The architectural hodge-podge that has blossomed helter-skelter there may make it the only campus in the country where a little red schoolhouse would not stick out like a sore thumb.

Toledo Blade Jan. 17, 1975

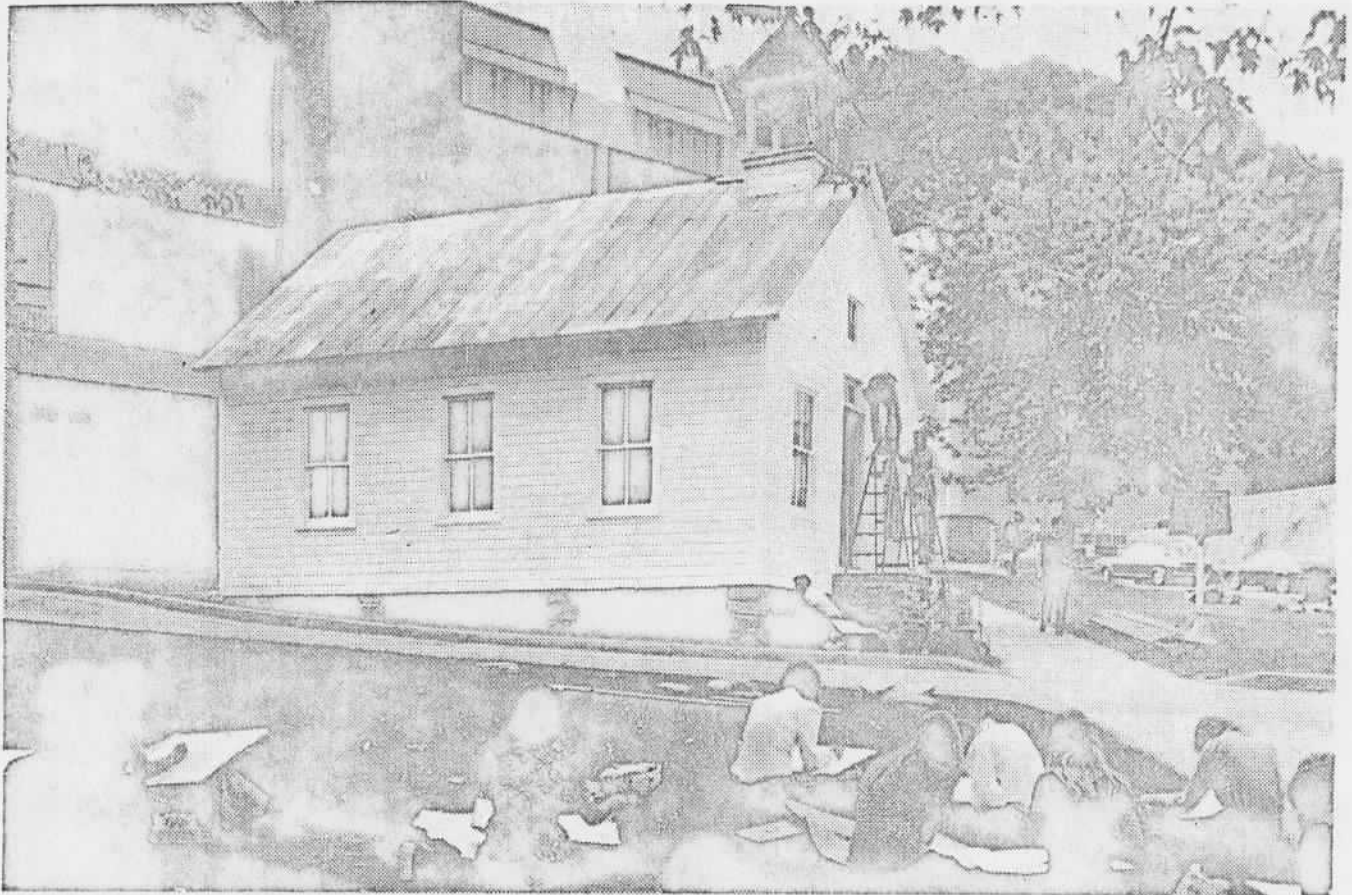
Dr. [unclear]  
Is it not something that a  
university has to go to the  
legislature for approval of  
such a project? Why not  
send BGSU materials on  
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C) Mr. Eyster

# The Courier-Journal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1973

5 SECTION C



MEMBERS of a Morehead State University art class sketch the Moonlight Schoolhouse as workmen

add finishing touches to the exterior of the building on the campus of the university.

## One-room school restored as museum

Special to The Courier-Journal

MOREHEAD, Ky. — A little white schoolhouse has materialized among the high-rise buildings on the campus of Morehead State University.

It is the restored Little Brushy School, originally located eight miles north of Morehead in Rowan County. Donated to MSU by William Dailey of Morehead, the frame building is being refurbished for use as a museum and has been renamed the "Cora Wilson Stewart Moonlight Schoolhouse."

Now situated adjacent to University Breckinridge School near the center of

the MSU campus, it will house artifacts of the one-room-school era and displays of the "Moonlight School" movement in adult education.

The school was constructed in 1910 during the administration of Mrs. Stewart as Rowan County school superintendent. She started the Moonlight Schools, where volunteer teachers taught reading and writing by night to adults. The schools were named because classes were conducted only on moonlit nights. The Moonlight School movement spread rapidly.

Mrs. Stewart became head of the Ken-

tucky Illiteracy Commission and later the World Illiteracy Commission. A Kentucky historical marker has been moved to the school site to commemorate her work.

Used for 52 years, the school was abandoned in 1963 when a new consolidated school opened. Little Brushy was among the schools used for the Moonlight classes.

"We felt the university's international recognition in adult education needed to be permanently marked and, at the same time, we want to pay tribute to the heritage of Mrs. Stewart and her pioneer

effort," said MSU President Adron Doran. MSU's Appalachian Adult Education Center, established in 1967 to develop adult education programs in 13 states, was cited by the United Nations last year for "meritorious work in world literacy."

Dr. Doran said the adult education center would be responsible for maintaining the school and its exhibits.

The Moonlight Schoolhouse will be opened to the public at 3:30 p.m. Sunday as part of a two-day observance of the start of MSU's second 50 years as a state institution.