

EASTERN KENTUCKY

WELCOME FAVORABLY

IMPRESSES NORMAL

SCHOOL COMMISSION

West Liberty and Morehead Give Members Huge Ovation

By NED M. HUGHES)

The normal school commissioners left Morehead early this morning for their various homes closing their tour of the Eastern Kentucky towns and cities which had qualified for the proposed new educational institution.

Morehead was the last town to be visited by the commission on their eastern tour. Members of the commission told The Independent last night that they would be unable to state definitely at what time a decision would be made. One member stated that he believed a meeting would be held at Louisville during September and that a final decision would be made then. Otherwise no information with regard to the selection could be obtained.

An Independent representative accompanied the commission thruout their tour of Eastern Kentucky cities. Not one of these five places, Paintsville, Louisa, Ashland, Morehead and West Liberty that are fighting for the school, received any more outward preference than the other. It could plainly be seen that the school body was making every effort to ascertain a suitable location, fairly and wisely. The eight members of the commission fully realize, it could be seen, the importance of their lofty positions.

"We are placed in a very peculiar position," they said, "and we realize how extremely necessary it is that we locate and establish the school in the place that will cause it to be of the most vital benefit to Eastern Kentucky.

Praise Welcomes Received

"The hospitality shown us on our trip through Eastern Kentucky, has been wonderful. We could not possibly select the site, if we were judging it from the welcomes received in each town and city. The job of locating this school properly will be an unpleasant task for us. Notwithstanding these facts the decision will come only after the most careful consideration. Every facility offered will delicately measured in our minds before we make the conclusive announcement." In view of these statements and others made by the commission during the trip this week, Ashland's chance for the new normal school appears to be equal to that of any of the other applicants. The commission in fact, was entranced by the beauties of the city and openly declared that they far surpassed any other they had visited. They said that it would undoubtedly be a splendid place for a school, the remark being made casually, however.

Morehead and West Liberty greeted the commissioners yesterday with unbelievable crowds. At Morehead before the arrival of the school men a crowd of approximately two thousand had gathered at the courthouse. Residents of nearby towns and several of the adjoining counties had come to Morehead to help her win the school. Two bands were on hand to make the rally a spirited success.

Rain, however, drove a great part of the crowd homeward, but nevertheless when the commission arrived, the court room in which the mass meeting was held virtually swelled with people. James Clay was chief speaker and delivered an eloquent address, welcoming the commission and pleading for the normal school.

Dinner at College

An elegant dinner was given the commission last night in the dining room of the Woman's Missionary College, at the site proposed for the Normal.

The greeting extended the commission on their visit to West Liberty yesterday morning and yesterday afternoon, came in the form of a spectacle that would be hard to forget. The commission left the train at Wrigley and was taken by automobile to West Liberty. At the very edge of the little village approaching from Wrigley, a huge red, white and blue banner was stretched across the road so as to form an archway. Lining the road on both sides, each holding an American flag and vigorously waving it, extending from one end of the town to the other for about a mile were hundreds of children. As the four automobiles passed along the road walled with humanity, cheering, whistling and shouting created an ear-splitting din. The commissioners proclaimed it the greatest demonstration they had seen while on their trip.

Judge Ed C. O'Rear, chairman of the commission, who spent his boyhood in West Liberty, was the chief center of West Liberty citizens' interest. The crowd which had gathered on the hillsides at the school site where the mass meeting was held cheered loud and long for Judge O'Rear, their native son, when he arose to speak after having been introduced by Leonidas Redwine, a prominent Morgan county lawyer and chairman of the school committee at West Liberty.

Judge O'Rear seemed to be deeply impressed by the demonstration, for in his short speech he virtually declared that West Liberty should have the school. "I would as soon see this little town get the school," he said, "as any in Kentucky."

The commission was entertained for dinner at the hotel. It left soon afterward for Morehead.

Robert Quicksy a negro, who gave his home as Ashland, was arrested by Patrolman Hutchinson this morning charged with stealing a bicycle. Quicksy stole the wheel, it is said, from a negro who lives on Railroad street between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets. He sold it to R. C. Queen, proprietor of Queen's grocery on Twenty-ninth street and Carter avenue. She price of the sale was \$5, it is said. "I spent all de money," he said.