

From This Campus Of 1924 Grew The Great Morehead State University Of 1972  
This panoramic view of the MSU campus in 1924 shows all four of the first buildings with Dr. Frank C. Butson, the first president, standing in the foreground. From left are Withers Hall, men's dormitory; Burgess Hall, administration and chapel building; Hargis Hall, classroom building; and Hodson Hall, women's dormitory. Adron Dornan University Center now occupies the site of Withers Hall. Johnson Camden Library was built on the site of Burgess Hall. Hodson Hall stood in the area of Alle Young Hall. Hargis Hall stood in the open area west of the existing Administration Building.

# MSU Is 50 Years Old, But Dates To Event In 1887

The year 1887 saw the arrival from Midway Junior College of Mrs. Phoebe Butson and her son, Frank C. Butson, in the Eastern Kentucky town of Morehead — a town with no streets, no sidewalks, no electric lights, no churches, and less than 1,000 people. Mrs. Butson and her son enrolled an orphan girl, Anna Page, as the first student in the Morehead Normal School housed in their small home located where the Adron Dornan University Center now stands. Among the first students were a young man named George Johnson, who now lives in Ashland and is the father of former MSU coach and athletic director Ellis Johnson, and another young fellow named Herb Bishop, who was the uncle of Roberta and Bob Bishop — residents of Morehead.

For 13 years the school was under the control of the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention and on July 31, 1890, was placed under the control of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, St. Louis, Mo.

Three wooden structures and Burgess Hall, a brick and stone building costing \$10,000, formed the nucleus of the campus. Hodson Hall, one of the three wooden structures, was the last to be torn down. Mrs. Butson died in 1892 and her son carried on the operation of the Normal School until 1911 when J.M. Robinson became principal. Dr. J. Wesley Hatcher, serving as principal from 1913 to 1919 and protégé, Harlan Hatcher, an outstanding student in the Normal School, went on to become president of the University of Michigan.

W.O. Lappin, the father of Dr. Warren C. Lappin, became principal in 1919 and served until the school closed its doors in 1922 when only three persons received diplomas at the last graduation exercises. In the meantime, at its regular session in 1920, the General Assembly of Kentucky authorized a study of the educational needs and facilities of

Commonwealth. The commission appointed to make the study recommended that two new normal schools be established — one in Eastern Kentucky and one in Western Kentucky.

On March 8, 1922, Gov. Edwin Morrow signed the act of the General Assembly providing for a special commission charged with the task of locating the two new normal schools. The members of the commission were appointed by Lt. Gov. S. Thurston Ballard of Louisville and Speaker of the House James H. Thompson of Bourbon County. Allie W. Young, who also served as a State Senator from the 31st District during the period from 1924 to 1925, contributed immeasurably to the decision to establish a new college in Eastern Kentucky and to locate it in Morehead.

Dr. Butson Elected First President  
The doors of the Morehead State Normal School opened for the first time on Sept. 23, 1923, and all that remained of the "Old Normal School" were the products and memories of an educational enterprise which for 35 years had served the young people of the region and had made a major contribution to advancing the cause of Christian education.

Dr. Frank C. Butson was named the school's first president and the Morehead State Normal School began operations during the period of post-war prosperity. The sum of \$30,000 was appropriated by the 1922 Session of the General Assembly to hire a faculty, provide the necessary supplies and "put the school in working order." Using the buildings which had formerly housed the old Normal School, Dr. Butson began the 1923 year with eight faculty members — Dean Charlin D. Lewis, C.O. Pieratt, Miss Inez Faith Humphrey, Miss Evelyn Royalty, Miss Myrtle Young, Miss Myrtle Young, and Henry C. Haggan and Dan Holbrook.

Miss Anna Carter served as Dr. Butson's secretary and Warren C. Lappin joined the faculty in the spring of 1924 as baseball coach.

Three college students and 70 students in the secondary school greeted the original faculty. By the end of the decade, the enrollment had grown to more than 350 college students representing 31 Kentucky counties and two states.

First Five Buildings Erected

In 1925, the first college newspaper — the Morehead Light — was published and two years later the name was changed to the Trail Blazer, a name it proudly bears today. In 1927, the first yearbook — The Facet — was published and in that same year, Morehead's first four graduates went out into the world with freshly-earned diplomas.

During Dr. Butson's administration five buildings were constructed. The old administration building (now Rader Hall) and Alle Young Hall were built in 1928 followed by Thompson Hall and Fields Hall in 1927. The President's home was completed in 1930 and Butson Auditorium was constructed in 1929.

In 1928, Morehead Normal School and Teachers College and was admitted to membership in the Kentucky Association of Colleges. Dr. Butson resigned the presidency on July 24, 1929, but remained on the staff as chaplain and assistant field representative for a year before being named President Emeritus.

Dr. John Howard Payne who was serving as superintendent of Mayville City Schools was named the college's second president on Aug. 1, 1929.

The "Roaring Twenties" came to a close with the dark clouds of the great economic depression casting their shadows over the entire nation which had enjoyed the untold days of post-war prosperity.

And so the stage was set for the Morehead State Normal School and Teachers College to begin its second decade of operation.

Accredited In The 80's

Morehead State Normal School and Teachers College became Morehead State Teachers College in 1930 and graduated 11 seniors that year. Sixty-five different courses were offered, the faculty numbered 22 at the beginning of the decade and the total student body numbered 256. By the end of the decade, the enrollment had grown to 585 and the faculty had increased to 58.

During the 30's, Morehead State Teachers College was admitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the American Association of Teachers Colleges and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

The sabbatical leave program was initiated on the campus. Correspondence courses were offered, off-campus teaching programs were organized, industrial arts and commerce courses were added, and the debating team won six of its scheduled meets in 1935.

The Campus Club brought the "Hawg Rille" into the scene in 1936 and Tim Wyanat faced 99 yards with an Eastern punt to help give MSU possession of the rifle in the first year of its existence.

Earl K. Sentz's "Fight, Fight, Fight for Morehead" caught on and became the official college fight song and the music department got its first practice room in the basement of Fields Hall.

Dr. Payne left the presidency on Sept. 13, 1935. Dr. William H. Vaughn served as acting president from Sept. 13 to Oct. 7 prior to the naming of Dr. Harvey Babb as the institution's third president on Oct. 7.

Four major buildings were constructed during the decade of the 30's as well as Joyce Memorial.

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# MSU Is 50 Years Old

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Stadium. Built were Johnson Camden Library, 1930, named for former U.S. Sen. Johnson Camden; University Breckinridge School, 1931, named for Robert J. Breckinridge, the sixth state superintendent of public instruction; Lappin Hall, 1937, named in 1968 to honor Dr. Warren C. Lappin; and East Men's Hall (now Mays Hall) was constructed in 1937.

Morehead State's fourth decade has been stymied by some of the dormant period of the 40's. Morehead State Teachers College began the decade with a new president when Dr. William H. Vaughn took over the reins on April 30, 1940.

The enrollment in the fall of 1940 was 588 and the college's first foreign student came to the campus from Cuba in 1941. The curriculum was reorganized in 1942 under the quarter system and continued under this plan until 1948.

It was in the early 40's that terrifying world events took every able-bodied male on the campus into the armed forces. The basic freedoms of all Americans were challenged on the battle fields. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to recognize that a state of war with Japan existed in 1941, events moved rapidly.

Navy School On Campus

Many stung and male faculty members joined the armed services and enrollment dropped to 225 in the fall of 1942. In the spring of 1943-44, only nine male students were enrolled and the enrollment hit a record low of 166 in the fall of 1944.

MSU's contribution to the war effort included the training of United States Navy personnel as the college facilities were made available for an electrical training school which kept 600 Navy officers and trainees on the campus at all times between 1943 and 1944.

When the war ended in 1945, most of the faculty members returned and many students enrolled under the GI Bill of Rights.

On Aug. 6, 1946, Dr. William Jesse Baird became Morehead State's 15th president. Dr. Warren C. Lappin served as acting president from July 1 to Aug. 6.

Enrollment for the fall of 1946 had reached 614 and the college appeared

to be on the way up during a period of post-war prosperity. But such was not to be the case.

In December, 1946, charges were filed with the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools against Morehead State because of political interference in the administration of its affairs. The college was removed from the association's list of accredited schools and the darkest days in the school's history were ahead.

The enrollment dropped to 425 students in the fall of 1947 — 179 fewer than the previous fall term — and the college faced a gigantic rebuilding program.

The governor named a new Board of Regents composed of outstanding business and professional men from the region and the association was convinced that the days of political interference had ended. Thus, the college was re-accredited in 1948.

Morehead State Teachers College became Morehead State College in 1948 and, by the end of the decade, the enrollment was hovering at the 600 mark — a level which had been established previously in 1940.

"The Dark Forties"

The decade of the 40's ended with the college static — the enrollment had not increased, no new buildings had been erected and the academic programs remained relatively unchanged.

The "Dark 40's" saw Morehead State College survive occurrences which might have ruined a less dedicated institution of higher learning and the "glorious 50's" were just around the corner.

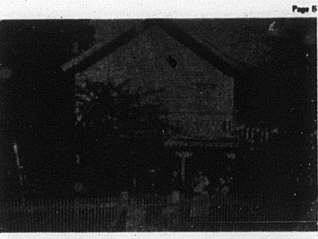
On Jan. 9, 1951, Dr. Baird resigned the presidency on April 6, 1954, and Dr. Adron Dornan was named on the same day as the seventh president of Morehead State and is currently serving his 19th year as president longer than any of his predecessors.

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# This Was The Campus At Morehead In 1930 — Boulevard Ended At Far Right



This panoramic view of the MSU campus in 1930 shows three of the first permanent buildings to be constructed. From left are Alle Young Hall, women's residence hall; Administration Building (now Rader Hall); and Thompson Hall then a men's residence hall and now used



The Morehead Christian School was started in this (the only) building back in 1887. F.C. Butson and his daughter lived downstairs and taught school upstairs. This building was located on the corner of the lot on which now stands the Adron Dornan University Center.

The 1950's witnessed the Korean Conflict and the growth of Communist influence throughout the world. In Kentucky, the passage of the foundation program for education and the development of a sound plan for financing education aided by the passage of the general sales tax were the big items of news affecting education at all levels.

The mid 50's saw Morehead State truly break through in a dramatic fashion. An enrollment at the beginning of the period of just over 600 doubled, then tripled, then quadrupled — until the enrollment was eight times larger than 10 years earlier.

New Approach To Teacher Training  
During this period, modern facilities were provided for programs in business, foreign languages, music, industrial arts, home economics, and special education. Programs in pre-forestry, pre-veterinary medicine, medical technology, nursing, foreign languages, and philosophy were added.

Off-campus student teaching and the professional semester was developed in the teacher training program and the guidance and testing services were integrated with the total social, recreational program. This decade saw MSU become one of the first institutions in the South to

fully integrate and become the first state-supported college or university in Kentucky to have integrated dormitories.

Marshall Banks became the first black to play on a varsity athletic team in the Ohio Valley Conference and Howard Murphy was the first black to play football in the OVC.

During the decade the faculty increased to 160. A director of graduate studies was named for the first time in 1957; an alumni director was named and the administrative organization of the college was modernized in 1960 with the arrangement of seven academic divisions as the result of a comprehensive self-study.

Admitted to NCAA  
The sound philosophy of service to the region was greatly strengthened by an action program during this period and Morehead State College became the center of regional activities for many varied and diverse groups and organizations.

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