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A HISTORY OF THE KILGORE COLLEGE

THESIS

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Texas State Teachers College in Paetial
Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	iv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	v
Chapter	
I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
Scope of the Study	
Sources of Data	
Procedure	
Probable Value of the Study	
II. ORIGIN OF THE KILGORE COLLEGE.....	5
Early History	
Organization	
General Regulations	
Why Have A College in Kilgore	
III. MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLEGE.....	24
Buildings and Equipment	
Students	
Staff	
IV. INTERNAL GROWTH OF THE COLLEGE.....	38
Course Offerings	
War Programs	
Vocational Emphasis	
V. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	62
APPENDIX.....	68
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	69

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Schools Included in the Kilgore College District, June 1, 1948	16
2. Schools Included in the Kilgore College District and Their Distance from Kilgore.	17
3. Principal Towns from Which Kilgore College Students Come and the Distance from Kilgore.	22
4. Values of Buildings and Equipment, Kilgore College.	32
5. Enrollment of Kilgore College for the Regular and Summer Sessions, 1935-48 . . .	34
6. Number of Graduates by Years, Kilgore College.	35
7. Officers of Administration and Faculty Members of Kilgore College, 1935-48. . . .	36
8. Courses Offered in Kilgore College, 1935-36	40
9. Courses Offered in Kilgore College, 1947-48	41
10. Enrollment in Defense and Evening Sessions of Kilgore College	43

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure	Page
1. W. L. Dodson, President of Kilgore College 1935-1943.	7
2. Administration Building, Kilgore College .	7
3. Aerial View of Kilgore College Campus showing (1) Administration Building (2) Gymnasium (3) Art Building (4) Woman's Building (5) Vocational Building (6) Shops	26
4. Woman's Building	28
5. Vocational Building.	30
6. Equipment used in the Course of Study Concerning Internal Combustion Engines .	47
7. Horology (watchmaking)	49
8. Welding Booth.	49
9. Inside view of the shop Building Showing Lathes	51

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Today, more than ever, attention is focused on the secondary schools of the nation. Enrollments in high schools, junior colleges, colleges and universities have increased by leaps and bounds. Returning veterans have swelled classrooms and dormitories. Junior colleges have been especially in the spotlight because they satisfy the demand for a bridge to span the gap between high school and advanced scholastic training or vocation.

Junior colleges for the last twenty years have played an important part in higher education in Texas. Until 1920 the independent junior colleges, composed of privately owned and denominational schools, were the only two-year colleges in Texas. In 1920 the publicly owned junior college made its appearance in the state, and today there are twenty such colleges.¹

The junior college movement is growing rapidly over the United States. The tendency is for the number of students

¹ Carl E. Seashore, The Junior College Movement, p. 52.

in the junior colleges to increase and for students to go directly from the junior colleges to the universities and technical schools.²

Scope of Study

The simple method of historical research has been followed in this study. The material is organized and presented chronologically. Gossip and hearsay have been eliminated. Only such material as could be substantiated by documents and/or personal interviews of people closely connected with the institution has been employed.

No attempt has been made to modify the history of this fast growing educational institution. The author has merely attempted to relate the history, brief though it may be, of the Kilgore Junior College.

Sources of Data

This is a history of the Kilgore College, Kilgore, Texas, a junior college for Kilgore and the oil belt. The data concerning the history of this very young publicly owned junior college has been secured through personal interviews with its originators, its administrators past and present, Kilgore newspapers, college catalogues, college annuals, and educational references, public laws and board minutes.

2

Ibid., p. 4.

Procedure

The material dealing with the history of this college has been organized to cover the following topics: origin of the college, three periods of material development, internal growth of the college and summary, conclusions and recommendations. The origin of the college will include the reasons for having a junior college located in Kilgore, its need in the community, its connection and separation from the high school. The three periods of material development are those before, during and after World War II and take into consideration the land, buildings, other property and equipment, and changes and expansion. The fourth chapter of this study considers the growth of the college through its administration and faculty, the curriculum, library facilities, activities engaged in by the students and athletics. The final chapter is devoted to conclusions arrived at in light of the data presented.

Probable Value of Study

The probable value of this study will lie in its use as a record of the early history of the college. It is the wish of the author to arouse interest in the colorful and worthwhile history of one of Texas' outstanding junior colleges. In the last report of the American Association of Junior Colleges there were some five hundred such public junior colleges of this type in the United States, distributed in all of the states except two.³ California leads with sixty-two;

³Ibid., p. 52.

4
Texas follows with twenty. Because of its importance in the American system of education, the history of junior colleges should be closely and carefully studied. Higher education faces the inescapable obligation of preparing adult citizens to meet their problems. Colleges and universities have the major responsibility for preparing leaders of adult groups. A variety of general and specialized curricula are now offered --humanistic studies, social studies, physical and biological sciences, and technical, vocational, and professional courses of various types. Many of these programs need strengthening.

The President's Commission on Higher Education was charged with the task of examining the functions of higher education in our democracy and the means by which they can best be performed.⁵ This Commission studied and reported on all phases of higher education. Its report is contained in six volumes covering the major phases of higher education. It is hoped that the present study, although insignificant as compared to the comprehensive report made by the Commission will stimulate further interest and research in the usefulness and development of junior college as an institution of higher education.

4

Ibid., p. 53.

5

President's Commission on Higher Education, Higher Education for American Democracy, Letter of Transmittal, p. iii.

CHAPTER II

ORIGIN OF THE KILGORE COLLEGE

Early History

Until 1910 the first schools were established in Kilgore for the welfare and education of the younger children in the Old Alexander Institute that housed the students from the first grade through college, and served as the only educational plant.¹ In 1910-11, the school board floated a bond for \$10,000, with which it built a two story red brick building with surrounding territory of eight acres.² This building was very complete even to an enormous bell that hung in a specially built belfray, and was the reminder to the children within hearing distance that it was time to start for school.

In the red brick building approximately three hundred children attended school and were taught by a faculty of eight members. There were seventeen credits available. There were five classrooms and an auditorium which was ample room for the immediate needs of the students, but with the discovery of oil in the East Texas field, Kilgore boomed up over night as a typical oil field town. This was the year of 1931, and

¹
The Flare, Kilgore, Texas, May 21, 1937, p. 9.

²
Ibid.

the school system that had been completed for the convenience of the students of Kilgore was not nearly large enough for the increase of new students. Temporary buildings were set up in different sections of the city and a new high school gymnasium was built.³ The townspeople started plans for a new building and the red brick building was torn down and the new \$210,000⁴ building started in the exact location of the old one.

The school board floated the bond,⁵ but the people who had moved to Kilgore after January were not taxable, so the local citizens and the local oil companies bought the bonds and the new building was started. Seven additional acres⁶ were bought.

With the improvements of the Kilgore Public School buildings, the number of affiliated subjects increased from the limited seventeen to the present forty-one. The faculty has increased from eight members to well over a hundred.

In 1934 W. L. Dodson, then Superintendent of the Kilgore Independent School District, conceived the idea of a college for Kilgore. His first step was to check the district to see if it complied with the Junior College Law.⁷ He believed

³
Ibid.

⁴
Ibid.

⁵
Ibid.

⁶
Ibid.

⁷
Statement by W. L. Dodson in interview.

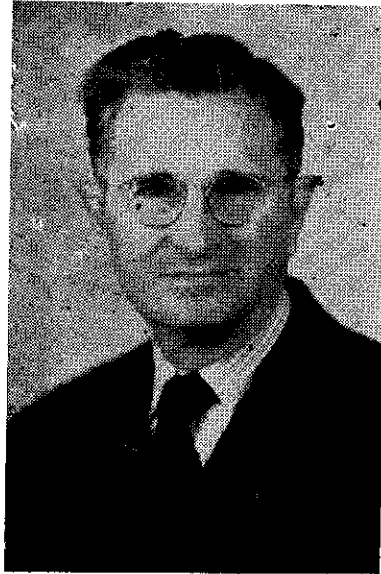


Fig. 1.--W. L.
Dodson, President of
Kilgore College 1935-
1943

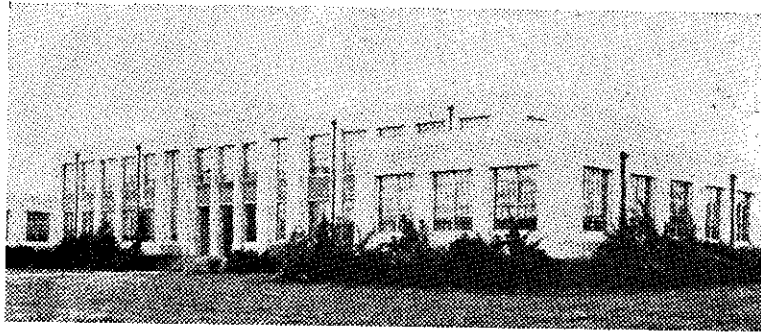


Fig. 2.--Administration Building,
Kilgore College

that a college could be established in East Texas, and he believed that Kilgore was the ideal location for such a college. He talked with the school board and with W. A. Nelson, the State College Examiner. The district did meet the requirements of the Junior College Law.⁸ The district was approved.⁹

Dodson's next step was to circulate a petition asking the school board to order an election.¹⁰ Shortly after June 6, 1935, a petition signed by 176 property owners of the Kilgore Independent School District was presented to the Board of Trustees. As a result of this petition, the election carried, thus giving the authority to assess taxes. The college maintained a twenty cent tax on the one hundred dollar evaluation for the erection of buildings and their maintenance. The assessed valuation of property within the Kilgore College District for the fiscal year 1935-36 was \$35,000,000.¹¹ The assessed valuation of property within the district from 1935 to 1948 is given in the Appendix.

Later, a canvas was made and presented to the State Board of Education. B. E. Masters was chosen to serve as Dean,

⁸ Vernon's Texas Statutes, 1936, Art. 2815 H, pp. 7, 8.

⁹ The Flare, May 21, 1937.

¹⁰ Statement by W. L. Dodson in interview.

¹¹ Statement by Austin S. Kay, Kilgore College Business Manager, in interview.

pending a final election of the voters of the District. Dean Masters secured the names and addresses of all high school graduates in and around Kilgore. This area included Kilgore, Leveretts Chapel, and Sabine. Masters went into the homes of these prospective students and talked, not only with the high school graduates, but to their parents as well.¹²

All this was a portion of the firm foundation being laid for the Kilgore College. As a result of the earnest endeavor of the people of Kilgore, the State Board of Education approved the establishment of the college on June 25, 1935.¹³ The local Board of Trustees set July 27, 1935 as the date for the college election, and for the election levying a twenty cent tax per hundred dollar evaluation for the erection and maintenance of the college buildings.¹⁴

The final vote in this election on both issues was 176 to one in favor of the college. Following the July 27 election, Kilgore College was officially and legally established.¹⁵

Kilgore College was founded June 6, 1935, when, recognizing a need for a junior college that would serve this section of the oil belt, W. L. Dodson and a far-seeing Board of Trustees

¹² Statement by W. L. Dodson.

¹³ The Kilgore Daily News Herald, Kilgore, Texas, June 26, 1935.

¹⁴ Statement by Austin S. Kay

¹⁵ Ibid.

completed plans for the establishment of junior college courses in the Kilgore High School and in other available buildings.

The Kilgore College was established under the Junior College Law, passed by the Forty-first Legislature,¹⁶ which permits school districts to organize for junior college purposes. The Kilgore Independent School District met all the requirements as set up by this law, and there was formed the Kilgore College District, which was coterminous with that of the Kilgore Independent School District. It had the same Board of Trustees, but the finances were separated, and the college maintained a twenty cent tax on the one hundred dollar evaluation for the erection and maintenance of buildings.¹⁷

Officials for the first year included W. L. Dodson, President; Basil Earl Masters, Dean; and O. G. Chandler, Secretary-Treasurer. Dodson and Masters were to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees concerning a faculty. It was understood that beside the initial faculty, others would be added as needed. Authority was granted to executives to proceed with the purchase of equipment and to make arrangements for housing the school.¹⁸

¹⁶ Vernon's Texas Statutes, op. cit., p. 8.

¹⁷ Kilgore College Catalogue, 1947-48, p. 1.

¹⁸ Kilgore College Catalogue, 1935-36, p. 7.

State College Examiner W. A. Nelson discussed with the Board the matter of equipment for the college. Even before the college was officially authorized, sufficient money had been set aside to make such purchases as would be necessary for full affiliation the first year.¹⁹

The affiliation of a junior college requires that all credits earned in that institution be accepted by senior colleges and universities. It was decided that all the requirements necessary for affiliation would be met before the school started, with the exception of the matriculation of students and the purchase of the library books. This same pattern of procedure had been established and followed by some forty-six such colleges previously.²⁰

The affiliation procedure was ably guided and assisted by B. E. Masters. Masters had previous experience along such lines at Gainesville, Paris and Amarillo, Texas. The Association of Texas Colleges did recognize and affiliate Kilgore College the first year of its existence.²¹ The State Department of Education also granted affiliation.²² These acts completed affiliation requirements and enabled students to receive

¹⁹ Seashore, op. cit., p. 41.

²⁰ Kilgore College Catalogue, 1937-38, p. 7.

²¹ The Kilgore Daily News Herald, Kilgore, Texas, June 26, 1935.

²² Ibid.

certificates to teach. Students also received full credit for courses when transferred to senior colleges.

In the beginning, the purpose of the Kilgore College was twofold. First, it offered the first two years of standard university work to the students of Kilgore and vicinity. This work was offered to all those who could enter the college under any one of the provisions of the general regulations of the college. The student could in this way complete the first two years of college work and remain at home or within a short distance of his home. The institution was to bridge the gap between high school and senior college.

Second, it offered terminal courses, requiring one or two years of college for those students needing vocational training. Many students do not and should not attend a four year college inasmuch as the junior college is a sufficient period to gain a working knowledge of their vocations.

The following editorial in The Dallas Morning News, May 26, 1942, gives an idea of one of the purposes of the Kilgore College:

The Kilgore Junior College seems to be setting the pace in Texas in the reorientation of educational effort to war-time needs. It has enlarged its vocational training department and has gone on a twenty-four-hours-a-day schedule.

Telling of the transition, a dispatch to The Dallas Morning News on May 24, 1942 says that "it has opened a new front on the war training line."

Kilgore College provides training in such a way as to help boys and girls find their places in life and learn to

make a living so as to serve society in a better way. With the establishment of this institution, every student within a driving distance of Kilgore, could by some means, be able to get at least two years of college training whether he be poor or wealthy.

Organization

There were two major changes in the organization and administration of Kilgore College. The first change came when the college government was separated from that of the Kilgore Public Schools through the change of the college president. From the beginning of the college until June 1, 1943, W. L. Dodson served as both Kilgore College President and Superintendent of the Kilgore Independent School District.²³ When, because of too much work, Dodson resigned as President of Kilgore College on June 1, 1943, the School Board was undecided as to the selection of a successor.²⁴ B. E. Masters was appointed Dean of the College at the time of its establishment and served in that capacity until July 1, 1946.²⁵ At this time Masters became President of Kilgore College. O. G. Chandler served as business manager for both the Kilgore College and the Kilgore Independent School District from

²³ Board Minutes, Kilgore Independent School District, p. 17.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

September, 1935 until July 1, 1946.²⁶ At this time, Austin S. Kay became business manager for the college and Chandler continued as business manager for the public school system. These changes in organization separating the college from the public school system were the first major move towards independence for the college.

The second change was in the administration of the college. From September, 1935 when the college was established until January, 1946, the same board of trustees served both the college and the public school system. The board was composed of seven members all from the Kilgore Independent School District. This arrangement was satisfactory inasmuch as the college district was coterminous with that of the public school system. However, in January, 1946 when the Sabine Common School District voted to join the Kilgore College District, a new board of trustees was elected to include one representative from the newly acquired area.²⁷ Later, as other districts joined with Kilgore, the number of trustees was again changed, this time to nine.²⁸

The Kilgore Independent School District owned and controlled the college until January, 1946. At this time the Board of Trustees that served both the Kilgore Independent

26

Ibid.

27

Statement by B. E. Masters in interview.

28

Ibid.

School District and the Kilgore College decided to expand the District beyond the limits of the Kilgore Independent School District. As a result, elections were held in Sabine, White Oak, Leveretts Chapel School Districts to determine whether these districts would join or consolidate with the Kilgore College District. The election carried.²⁹ Sabine, White Oak, and Leveretts Chapel then became a part of the Kilgore College District. In separate elections, New London, Overton and Gaston School Districts voted to become a part of the College District.³⁰ These six districts were added to the Kilgore Independent School District for junior college purposes to form the Kilgore Junior College Union District.³¹

Under this organization, there were then seven trustees for the Kilgore Junior College Union District. But under the law amended by the Fiftieth Legislature,³² the size of the board had to be increased to nine members in order to give representation to the new districts annexed.³³ One trustee was to be elected for the entire district at large, two were to be chosen from the area including Sabine Common School District and White Oak Common School District, one was

²⁹Kilgore College Catalogue, 1947-48, p. 1.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Ibid.

³²Vernon's Texas Session Law Service, Fiftieth Legislature, H. B. No. 747, p. 476.

³³Ibid.

to be chosen from the area including Leveretts Chapel Independent School District, New London Consolidated School and Gaston Consolidated School District. Three trustees were to be elected from the Kilgore section.³⁴

The official order for the election of such trustees pointed out that

Article 2815K-1, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, 1925, as amended, provides that when its provisions become applicable to any Junior College district, an election shall be held on the first Saturday in April next ensuing for the election of trustees, and whereas the provision of said Article 2815K-1 are now applicable to Kilgore College District.³⁵

By June 1, 1948, seven school districts were included in the Kilgore College District. Table 1 gives the six added, the year they were added and the county in which they are located.

TABLE 1
SCHOOLS INCLUDED IN THE KILGORE COLLEGE
DISTRICT, JUNE 1, 1948

School District	Year Added	County
Sabine	1946	Gregg
White Oak	1946	Gregg
Leveretts Chapel	1946	Rusk
New London	1947	Rusk
Overton	1947	Rusk
Gaston	1948	Rusk

³⁴Kilgore Daily News Herald, March 22, 1948, pp. 1, 8.

³⁵Ibid., p. 8.

The preceding table indicates that six school districts were added between 1946 and 1948. Only two of the districts added, not including Kilgore, are in Gregg County, the county in which the college is located. The remaining four districts are in the neighboring county of Rusk.

Table 2 gives the schools now included in the Kilgore College District and their distance from Kilgore.

TABLE 2
SCHOOLS INCLUDED IN THE KILGORE COLLEGE
DISTRICT AND THEIR DISTANCE
FROM KILGORE

Name of School	Distance
Kilgore	0 miles
Sabine	6 miles
Leveretts Chapel	8 miles
New London	14 miles
Overton	14 miles
White Oak	17 miles
Gaston	18 miles

General Regulations

It was the belief of the president that students can develop by overcoming obstacles and learning the lessons of honesty, fair dealing, and dependability. Along with these traits the student must learn that work stands out as most important. "This institution has continually stressed the importance of learning to work effectively and efficiently."³⁶

Students fulfilling any one of the following requirements are eligible for admission to Kilgore College.

³⁶Statement by B. E. Masters in interview.

1. Any student graduating from an affiliated high school with the required number of credits, may enter Kilgore College by presenting a statement of his credits from the Superintendent or from the principal of his respective high school.

2. The student may pass entrance examinations, given either through the State Department of Education, or by the college faculty. This requirement applies to those students who are from unaffiliated, or partly affiliated schools, or students who lack part of the necessary credits. A student may enter as a regular student, provided he has a certificate from the State Department of Education stating that he has passed these examinations; or, that he has successfully passed an examination, under the supervision of the college faculty, during the dates set by the faculty.

3. The student who is not a high school graduate may enter on individual approval. Students of twenty-one years or over, (eighteen, in the case of ex-service men), who offer evidence of good character and of ability to do college work, may enter without examinations. After passing the college courses with creditable grades, such students may receive their high school units by the same method as used in the University of Texas.

4. Ex-servicemen, eighteen years of age or over, may be admitted on individual approval, even though they are not high school graduates.

5. The student may be a transfer from another college. A student who has been dropped or dismissed from another

college may not enter Kilgore College until he has qualified to reenter the college from which he was dismissed. A student, however, may enter this institution only if he has an honorable dismissal from his former college.

The following high school units are required for entrance: English, three; mathematics, two; history, two; electives, eight; total of fifteen.³⁷

Included in the general regulations is the statement that:

All entrance conditions for those entering on individual approval must be removed by the end of the second year. If a certificate to teach is desired, these conditions must be removed by the end of the first year.

Those students presenting only one unit in algebra may be admitted to any course except engineering. The removal of this condition will not be necessary if the student, after leaving this institution, enters a university which requires only one unit in algebra.

Entrance requirements in engineering include one unit in plane geometry, one-half unit of solid geometry, in addition to the eight required units specified for all other students. Those deficient in solid geometry will be admitted on condition that the deficiency be removed during the first term of enrollment in Kilgore College. Plane and solid geometry will not be offered as courses in the college.³⁸

To graduate from Kilgore College, the student must have as many grade points as the number of hours he has carried. Grade points are offered at the rate of three grade points

³⁷Kilgore College Catalogue, 1947-48, p. 24.

³⁸Ibid., p. 25.

for a grade of "A" for each hour credit; "B", two grade points per each semester hour credit; and one grade point per each semester hour credit for grade of "C". In order for a student to graduate from Kilgore College, he must:

1. Meet the entrance requirements.
2. Have at least sixty semester hours credit.
3. Have a general average of C in all work.
4. Have taken three subjects of sophomore standing.
5. Have taken English--two years--twelve semester hours, except engineers, who will take only six semester hours.
6. Have taken physical education, two years, non-credit.
7. Have taken three hours of government.
8. Have taken additional electives to make sixty semester hours.
9. Have not less than twenty semester hours in the college and must have been in residence two semesters including the last semester.³⁹

Why Have A Junior College in Kilgore

Kilgore College is located in Kilgore, the oil capital of Texas. Kilgore, with a population of about 20,000, is situated on the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railway from St. Louis to Houston. It is headquarters for oil men and workers for 26,000 wells, and the home of the Texas Railroad Commission, which controls the oil proration for

this section of Texas. Hundreds of employees of the oil companies live in Kilgore.

Kilgore also has the main office of the Federal Tender Board of the United States. This Division of the Department of the Interior employs in Kilgore something like fifty men.

With the twenty-five miles of paved streets, with beautiful churches, public school buildings, Kilgore is attracting attention from all sections of the United States. It has long since passed from the boom town to one of substantial growth and development. Families are moving to Kilgore to have the advantages it offers in the business and educational fields.

According to O. G. Chandler, Secretary of the Kilgore Independent School System, the Kilgore Independent School District is one of the wealthiest in the oil belt and above the average school district in the state of Texas.⁴⁰

The school tax evaluation for 1936 was \$35,000,000. This was an increase in the tax valuation over the years before the boom when the evaluation was \$800,000. The tax evaluation for the year 1947-48 was \$166,000,000.⁴¹

The principal cities from which Kilgore College students come are listed as Big Sandy, Gladewater, Longview, Overton,

40

Statement by O. G. Chandler in interview.

41

Statements by Austin S. Kay in interview.

Tyler, Arp, Troup, Carlisle, Henderson, and Kilgore. All these towns are within easy driving distance and represent a population of some 200,000.

Table 3 has been compiled to show the principal towns from which students come and the distance they must travel.

PRINCIPAL TOWNS FROM WHICH KILGORE COLLEGE
STUDENTS COME AND THE DISTANCE
FROM KILGORE

Town	Miles
Arp.	20
Gladewater	16
Big Sandy.	26
Greggton	15
Henderson.	17
Longview	11
Carlisle	21
Troup.	25
Tyler.	25

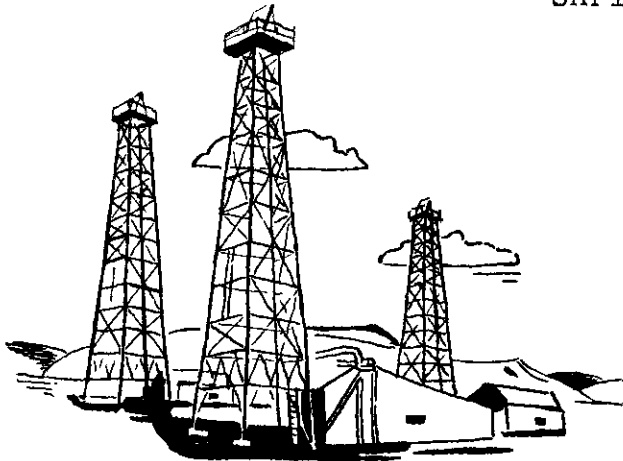
The above table indicates that the majority of Kilgore College students come from within a thirty mile radius. The distance is within easy driving range and accounts for a great number of students. The greatest distance reported is twenty-six miles, the distance from Big Sandy to Kilgore. Students do come from other states and towns other than those listed in Table 3, but the towns listed are the principal ones from which the majority of Kilgore College students come.



Dr. B. E. Masters
President
Kilgore College

ALMA MATER

Oh Kilgore College, dear to my
heart
My Alma Mater, glorious thou
art.
Shine on, a beacon, lighting
my way.
Ebony gold, a dark flowing
stream,
Under thy rich sod, give life
to a dream,
Youth, reaching upward, finds
here in thee
Dreams coming true high destiny.
Years will pass, Alma Mater, so
dear
Voices now singing be forgotten
here;
Memories sweet will turn back
and find
Thee in my heart, for aye en-
shrined.



CHAPTER III

MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLEGE

Buildings and Equipment

In the beginning, in September of 1935, the Kilgore College opened with an enrollment of less than 250 students. The college was housed primarily in the high school buildings. However, some classes were held in the First Baptist Church and those meeting after three o'clock were held in the high school buildings.¹ Being thus situated, the college could offer only six incomplete courses of study. The entire curriculum in 1935 included only six possible majors: Liberal Arts, Pre-Med,² Pre-Law, Engineering, Business Administration, and teaching.

However, in 1936 when a new building was completed on the campus containing \$200,000 worth of equipment, the courses of study in each of the above fields were greatly expanded. Inasmuch as the Administration Building was the only building completed, the inadequacy of space hampered any further expansion of instruction for the time being.

¹ Statements by W. L. Dodson in an interview.

² Kilgore College Catalogue, 1935-36, p. 2.

General Location.--Kilgore College is located on a six-acre campus in Kilgore, Gregg County, in East Texas in the center of the world's greatest oil field. It is situated on the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railway from St. Louis to Houston. Many highways lead into this fast growing city of some 20,000 people. Being the oil capital of Texas, Kilgore is headquarters for oil men and workers for 26,000 wells. This oil field is over six years old, yet the oil flows from the ground at an enormous pressure.

Kilgore College has eleven buildings on the campus, all constructed within the last twelve years, of brick and reinforced concrete. Installed in these buildings are the latest modern equipment and devices which aid the student in his work. Due to the wise financial management by trustees and executives in the early days of the college, the buildings and equipment have no indebtedness.

Main Building.--The main building of thirty rooms was completed in 1936. It is a modern, two-story structure of reinforced concrete, containing administrative offices, class rooms, laboratories and library. Each class room is equipped with a modern public address system.

Fine Arts Building.--The Fine Arts Building, or studio building, is situated on the north side of the campus. It is constructed of the same type of brick as the main building. Its eight rooms house the band, piano, and voice studios, art department, home economics, and press room.

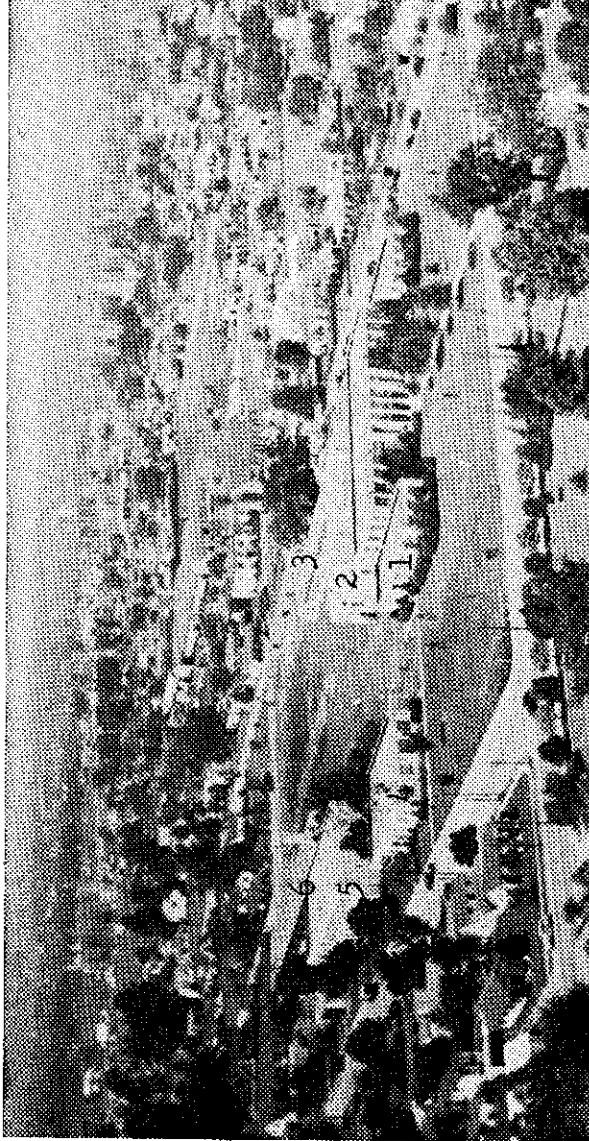


Fig. 3.--Aerial View of Kilgore College campus showing
(1) Administration Building (2) Gymnasium (3) Art Building
(4) Woman's Building (5) Vocational Building (6) Shops

The Fine Arts Building was completed in 1938 and provided room for expansion of the Art Department. The primary advantage to the erection of this building was that it allowed space for laboratory and practice rooms. With the removal of the Fine Arts Department from the main building came the expansion of the courses in engineering and mathematics. This expansion was brought about because of additional space for classes.

Shop Building.--There has been erected on the campus a modern shop equipped for vocational training. This building, 360 feet long and forty feet wide, is constructed of white brick. It has concrete floors, modern lighting, and ventilation. In this building is located \$60,000 worth of modern machinery for instructional purposes in welding, sheet metal, machine shop practice, aircraft engines and structure, and facilities for the study of technical and related information.

Girls' Gymnasium.--This building, erected in 1942, is used by the girls of the college, most of whom drive into Kilgore in their own cars or by bus. It has offices of the physical director and the counselor, a large lounge and study room, lockers, game room, cot room, store rooms and showers.

Vocational Building.--This building of two stories, with approximately 15,00 square feet of space, was erected for class room and laboratories, other than shops, for the vocational school. The first floor consists of offices for the Visual Education Bureau of East Texas, drafting rooms, related



Fig. 4.--Woman's Building

subject rooms, and recitation rooms. The second floor is used entirely by the business administration department. It contains typewriters, calculating machines, and all other equipment for training in this department.

Main Gymnasium.--The gymnasium, ninety-five by 105, is adequate for all physical training and indoor games for boys and girls, including tennis, volleyball, and softball. It is equipped with a stage for student assemblies and school meetings, with galleries for spectators and offices for the instructors, with locker and shower rooms.

Since the war, the gymnasium with approximately four hundred seats and standing room of 650 is much too small for basketball. So most of the Junior College Conference games have been played in the new high school gymnasium where the seating capacity is one thousand.

Five new buildings have been added to the campus since 1946. These buildings include the cafeteria, chemistry building, home economics building, boys' large dormitory and boys' small dormitory. These five buildings were donated to the college through a grant of the Federal Works Agency, Bureau of Community Facilities.

The Home Economics and Chemistry Buildings were moved free. The other three buildings, however, were moved at the expense of the college. The total cost to move, put up foundations and furnish the five buildings was \$39,511.47.¹

¹Expenditures prior to August 31, 1947 taken from Auditor's Report. Expenditures since that date taken from General Maintenance Fund. Information given by Austin S. Kay, Business Mgr.

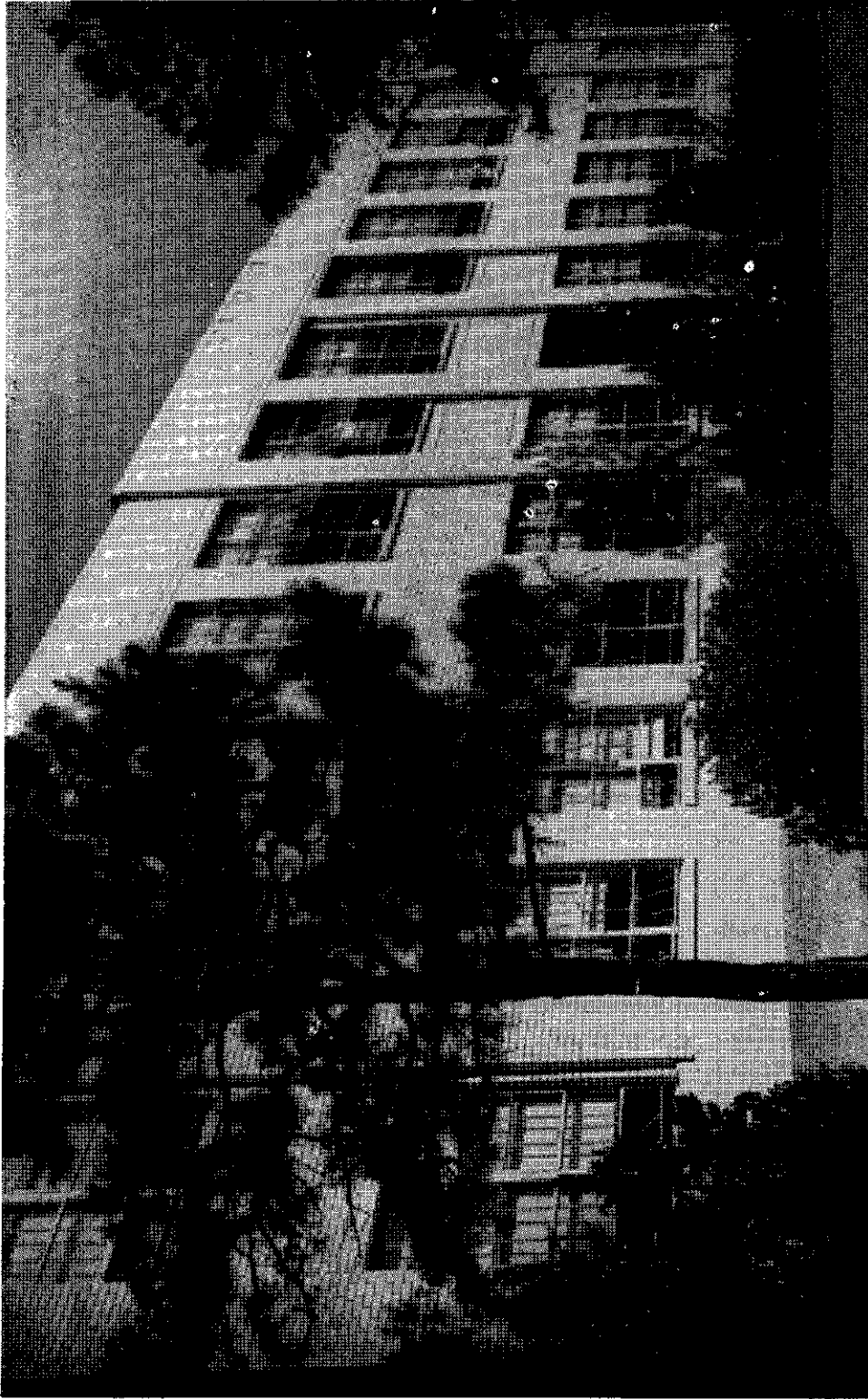


Fig. 5.--Vocational Building

Stadium.--The new athletic stadium, on a thirteen acre block of land in the south part of town, has a seating capacity of six thousand at the present time. Constructed on a concrete foundation, the stadium is of steel structure with seats of redwood. It contains dressing rooms for teams and officials and an enclosed press box. At the rear of the playing field is a practice field.

The track, built in 1946 at a cost of \$15,000 is considered second only to the track at the Memorial Stadium in Austin, Texas. The stadium which is owned by Kilgore College in 1947 was officially named the R. E. St. John Memorial Stadium in honor of a former school administrator who was killed in action while serving in the Navy. The stadium was officially dedicated during the football season with appropriate splendor. The high school uses the stadium on Fridays and the college uses it on Saturdays during football season. The stadium is being remodeled to enlarge the seating capacity to 12,500. Four brick gateways are also being built.

Summary.--Table 4 has been compiled to give the cost of the buildings including the equipment. The values were given by the business manager of the college. This table is shown on page 32.

Buses.--All students living within the Kilgore College District have free bus transportation to and from their homes. Those living outside the district pay at least \$4.00 per month for such transportation. The college provides ten buses, each with a capacity of forty-five to transport students

TABLE 4
VALUES OF BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT
KILGORE COLLEGE

Building	Year	Value
Administration Building and Gymnasium	1936	\$125,945
Fine Arts Building	1938	22,250
Woman's Building	1942	30,000
Shop Building	1942	40,000
Vocational Building	1941	80,000
Cafeteria, Chemistry, Home Economics, Boys' Large and Small Dormi- tories	1946	39,511*

*Buildings were a gift from federal government and value given is the cost of moving and equipping buildings. Amount is given to nearest dollar

who live within the oil belt. This enables students to get all the advantages the college has to offer and yet live at home. Thus, students can attend a standard college at only a fraction of the expense ordinarily involved in going to college.

Students

As has been discussed previously, one of the objectives of the Kilgore College is to serve the people of the oil belt of East Texas with every kind of instruction needed not only

by the youths, but also the adults. The type of instruction, whether it be for the youth or adult, may be classified under three heads:

First, to offer any type of vocational training which may be completed within a few months or a year for those who wish to enter into said vocation in the shortest period of time.

Second, those students who desire two years of technical training or terminal courses may complete this period of training and become what is commonly known as technicians, a more advanced training than the strictly vocational work. This may involve junior engineers, courses in electronics, with a knowledge of mathematics, physics, and chemistry; chemical analysts; various phases of oil field production or refining work; business training; or any course which may require some fundamental training along with the laboratory work.

Third, this type of training is for those who wish to enter the professional fields or pursue in a senior college a degree in Liberal Arts. It is the first two years of a university or senior college degree in preparation for a profession.

Table 5 gives the enrollment of the college for the regular sessions and summer session for the years since its beginning.

TABLE 5
 ENROLLMENT OF KILGORE COLLEGE FOR THE
 REGULAR AND SUMMER SESSIONS
 1935-48

Year	Men	Women	Total
1935-36	150	111	261
1936-37	249	182	431
1937-38	343	260	603
1938-39	398	262	660
1939-40	422	271	693
1940-41	446	319	765
1941-42	500	349	849
1942-43	347	275	622
1943-44	112	269	381
1944-45	200	280	480
1945-46	749	306	1055
1946-47	1396	358	1754
1947-48*	985	303	1288

*Does not include enrollment in summer session

Table 5 indicates a steady increase in enrollment from the beginning to 1942. Of course, enrollment decreased somewhat during the war, but as indicated in the table, picked up again with the return of servicemen.

Table 6 has been compiled to show the number of graduates from Kilgore College.

NUMBER OF GRADUATES BY YEARS
KILGORE COLLEGE

Year	No.
1936	12
1937	24
1938	73
1939	100
1940	106
1941	116
1942	107
1943	76
1944	39
1945	47
1946	73
1947	205
1948*.	291

*Does not include summer session

During the years 1941, 1943, 1944, and 1946, graduation exercises were held twice.

Kilgore College will grant to the highest graduate of each high school in the East Texas section of the state a scholarship valued at \$70.00. It is the policy of the college faculty to assist deserving students as much as possible. There is a large percentage of the students who require at least partial employment in order to remain in school. The citizens of Kilgore and the community have gladly

extended employment to as many students as possible. A large number have been given aid by the National Youth Administration. Worthy musicians and athletes are given a part of tuition in return for their services.

Staff

Table 7 gives the number of officers of administration and faculty members by years since the college began its operations.

TABLE 7
OFFICERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY MEMBERS
OF KILGORE COLLEGE, 1935-48

Year	No. of Officers	No. on Faculty	Total
1935-36	3	6	9
1936-37	4	10	14
1947-38	4	18	22
1938-39	4	25	29
1939-40	5	27	32
1940-41	5	28	33
1941-42	5	27	32
1942-43	8	38	46
1943-44	7	29	36
1944-45	7	28	35
1945-46	7	28	35
1946-47	6	32	38
1947-48	7	53	60

Data in Table 7 indicate a steady increase in the number of faculty members in the Kilgore College to 1942. In the beginning, only nine instructors and officers of administration were employed. Six instructors made up the faculty. The

increase began the very next year when ten faculty members were employed. During the next three years only four officers of administration were employed. The number of officers of administration was increased to five during the 1939-40 session and this number remained until the 1942-43 school year when the number was increased to eight. However, this number was decreased, and during the last session of the Kilgore College, seven officers of administration were employed.

During the 1936-37 session, ten instructors were employed. The staff increased to eighteen members in 1937-38 and has been gradually increasing until during the last session, the entire faculty numbered fifty-three.

The accelerating increase in the number of those seeking higher education during recent years has been a sign of pressing need for the readaptation of education beyond high school to more practical needs. If, after the war, a considerable proportion of youth being graduated from high school is to receive college training and to receive jobs on the basis of such training after completing college, then the example of the Kilgore College must be widely and permanently followed.

CHAPTER IV

INTERNAL GROWTH OF THE COLLEGE

Course Offerings

It is to be wondered if the Kilgore College, and some others like it, are not also opening a new front of wide significance in the field of education. The shattering effect of the impact of World War II has released many institutions from old forms, making reconstruction possible now that peace has returned. With all of the fanfare about its progressive-ness, intermediate and higher education has really done little to get out of the rut. The graduating high school student body has little alternative today except that of quitting school and going to work, or pushing ahead through a white-collar curriculum. While other forces have achieved much to dignify labor and raise it in general estimation, the powers-that-be in higher education have actually done little but talk.

Kilgore College, in an effort to meet the educational needs of youth through the East Texas area, has established a Vocational Department with courses of study designed to meet the needs of industry. Courses and course material have been developed through cooperative effort of the school and industry.

The fundamental principle underlying the organization and existence of this department of the college is the training of boys and girls for work in industry. The success of the vocational program is evaluated in terms of the successful progress of its students in the job for which they have been trained. This, with the demand from industry that students seeking employment should be able to assume their proper place in the organization without an expensive breaking in period, assure the highest type of training and should be of interest to students of the highest type.

Local industries, such as the metal working industries, the petroleum industry and allied industries can absorb a limited number of well trained personnel each year; therefore, only those students who are willing to study hard, work diligently, and who have an earnest desire to go to work should seek entrance in this division of the college.

President Masters, recognizing the need for qualifying courses in Kilgore College, increased the number of education courses from two to eight. Now the department includes such courses as Adolescent Psychology, Visual and Auditory Training Aids, and Elementary Grade Teaching.¹

Alice P. White was brought to the instructional staff as Dean of Women and Bible Instructor, as the school could obviously not develop too far without the addition of a Bible

¹
Kilgore College Catalogue, 1947-48, p. 24.

Department to satisfy students desiring theological training. Courses include complete reviews of the Old and New Testaments with special emphasis on the New Testament and such books as the Acts and Epistles, the Gospel Story, and so forth.² A student can find himself well trained as a citizen in the Bible Department, or a student leaving for further work can get a good background for training in the ministry.³

Table 8 gives the number of courses offered in each of the fields of study at the Kilgore College during the first school year.

TABLE 8
COURSES OFFERED IN KILGORE COLLEGE, 1935-36

Art	2
Business Administration	13
Education	5
English	4
Foreign Languages	12
Mathematics	6
Physical Education.	2
Music	2
Chemistry	8
Geology	2
Physics	2
History	6
Government.	2
Economics	2
General Science	2

²
Ibid., p. 8.

³
Ibid.

Data in Table 8 indicate that sixty courses of instruction were offered during the first year of operations. As indicated in the table, many of the departments were able to offer only two courses. These departments included art, physical education, music, geology, physics, government, economics, and general science. The business administration department offered the largest number of courses and the foreign language department offered the second largest.

In order to show the increase in courses taught, Table 9 has been compiled to show the number of courses taught in the Kilgore College during the year 1947-48.

TABLE 9
COURSES OFFERED IN KILGORE COLLEGE, 1947-48

Art	6
Bible	6
Business Administration	22
Education	11
Civil Aeronautics Administration.	2
English	7
Engineering and Mathematics	18
Foreign Languages	19
Home Economics.	7
Health and Physical Education	16
Music	25
Biology	4
Chemistry	8
Geology	2
Physics	8
History	6
Government.	2
Economics	2
Sociology	4
Speech.	10

During the school year 1947-48, Table 9 indicates that a total of 175 courses of instruction were offered in the Kilgore

College. Only four departments offered two courses; namely, civil aeronautics, geology, government and economics. It is interesting to note that in the beginning only two courses were offered in geology, government and economics. The fact that these two courses have not advanced in number is no indication of a lack of progress. Rather, it is explained by the nature of the courses themselves. These three courses are not offered for purely vocational purposes, but rather as preparation for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Again business administration leads with a total of twenty-two courses. This department includes such courses as typewriting, shorthand, bookkeeping, commercial law, secretarial training, business English, and so forth. The foreign language department offers six courses in French, four in German, three in Latin, and six in Spanish. Instruction in health and physical education covers all types of sports, recreation, first aid, and the like. The music department embodies all types of instrumental instruction, band work, voice, choral and private instruction. The natural science courses are grouped as biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. The political science department includes history, government, economics and sociology.

War Programs

The college participated in the Civilian Pilot Training Program when it was inaugurated in the fall of 1939. Pilots in the Enlisted Reserve of the Army Air Forces were also

trained in this program. During the spring of 1942, the gymnasium was converted into barracks for housing Navy V-5 cadets, sailors and marines who were stationed at Kilgore for an intensified training program consisting of 240 hours of ground school work and thirty-five hours of flying time. All this had to be accomplished in eight weeks.

The college has trained over a thousand fliers in the past few years. Instruction included elementary, secondary, cross-country, commercial and instructors preparation. The facilities at Elder Field are only two and one half miles from the college campus and are available for the students.

During the war years, Kilgore College did its part by training defense workers. Enrollments in the classes are given in Table 10.

TABLE 10

ENROLLMENT IN DEFENSE AND EVENING
SESSIONS OF KILGORE COLLEGE

Year	Number Enrolled
1942	1536
1943	1608
1944	506
1945	408
1946	<u>235</u>
Total	4293

Defense courses conducted during the war were held in both morning and evening sessions. Two sessions had to be

provided because the students attending these courses could be either employed or unemployed. No definite requirements as to entrance were imposed. Many of the students were WPA employees. Many were high school graduates seeking vocational training. Those who were WPA workers received the same salary for their training as when working, plus \$100 for subsistence. In other words, WPA workers were paid to train themselves for better jobs.

Upon completion of the prescribed courses, the students could return to their WPA jobs or take jobs in the shipyards at Orange, Texas. Many did go to the shipyards and some returned to their former jobs.

Classes were held for six hours a day, four days a week. The first defense school was organized in February of 1941. Courses offered included welding, aircraft sheet metal, machine shop, and aircraft engineering. In September of 1942, courses in building trades, setting and fitting of machinery in shipbuilding, marine sheet metal work and pipe fitting were added to the curriculum. Such related subjects as blueprints, mathematics, drawing and layout were gradually incorporated. The course in welding lasted until the student could pass a practical examination. The instructors were paid to go to the shipyards in Orange, Texas, and investigate actual needs and practices for benefit of the students.

With modern equipment now available in the shops, many students are able to go immediately from Kilgore College into responsible positions in the petroleum field. Some of the

shop courses that have been added to the original list of thirty courses are engine parts, fuel injection, cooling systems, foundry practice, casting, and benchwork.⁴

When in 1941, the Vocational Building became available, great strides were made in the vocational and the business administration departments. The department offers such courses as Business English, Combination Shorthand and Secretarial Practice courses, Social Security, Accounting, Principles of Business, Commercial Law, Business Math, and Retailing.

Kilgore College has made preparations by means of modern buildings, equipment, and first class instructors to take care of any training needed. This training consists of any type of laboratory or class work needed in the professional, semi-professional, or purely vocational fields. Many service men will return to the college to complete their professional training. Others have not entered college at all, and will need college training for periods ranging from one to four years.

Kilgore College offers to any of the service men, as well as others, training of any kind in preparation for various professions and vocations which they seek; the 15,000 square feet of shop space, equipped with machines for shop work, automobile and aircraft engines, sheet metal, drafting, welding and any other type of laboratory work commonly found in a shop.

⁴Kilgore College Catalogue, 1946-47, p. 4.

The business department offers two years of intensive training for secretarial work, bookkeeping, accounting and office management. Adults may take advantage of this school and attend either day or night. Any course in Kilgore College will be given for adults who are working in either late afternoon or evening, if there is a sufficient number to warrant the organization of the class. Those students in the vocational school, either day or night classes, will be counted as college students and receive full benefit of any college activities on the campus. They are free to enter the band, choral club, athletics, debate and other activities. Kilgore College, which has been approved by the Vocational Department of the State Department of Education, supported by both State and Federal money, is prepared to meet the needs of any student.

The course of study concerning internal combustion engines, gas, gasoline and diesel, is designed for the purpose of furnishing well-trained men in the operation, maintenance, and repair of diesel equipment; the beginner is given training in the fundamental working principles of internal combustion engines of the natural gas and gasoline type, as a prerequisite and foundation necessary to master thoroughly the diesel engine. Extensive study is given in the major overhaul, fuel injection systems, and all other phases of work required of a diesel maintenance and operating engineer. The theory is taught in class room prior to the actual specific problem involved in the diesel engine in the laboratory shop, presenting the student

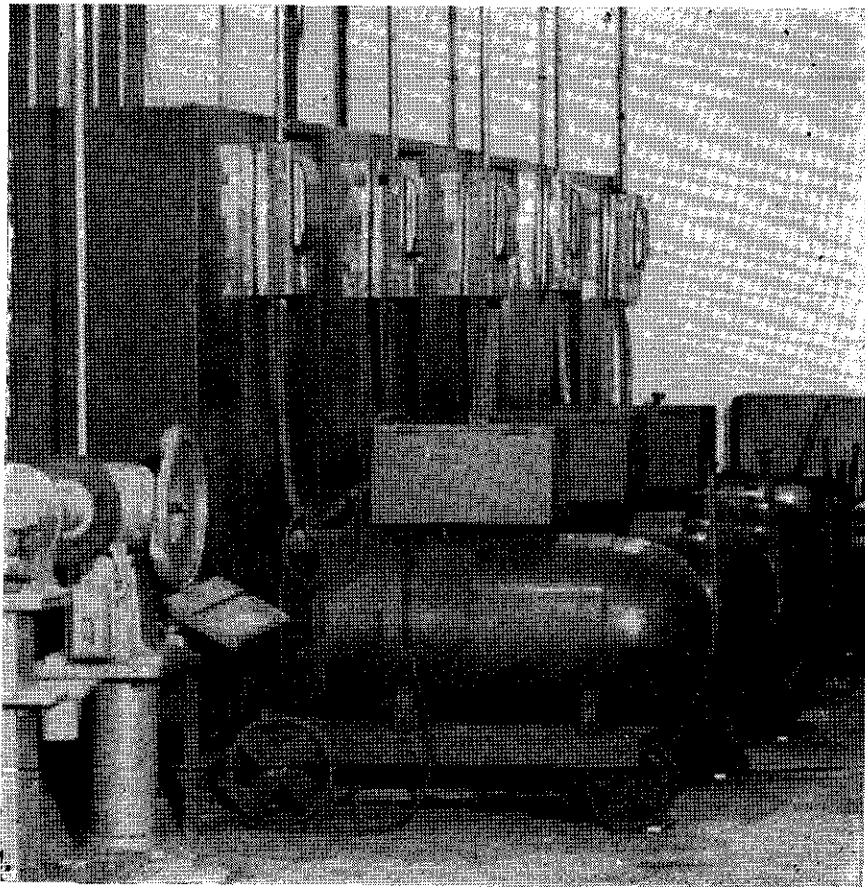


Fig. 6.--Equipment used in the course of study concerning internal combustion engines

with the necessary related information as well as the technical information.

Horology (watchmaking) is a terminal course given on a full-time basis for twelve months (thirty-five hours each week). The purpose of this course offered by the vocational department of the Kilgore College is to present the basic principles of watch repairing in order to train the student as a watch repairer. This course is for students who desire to enter into a trade and who do not contemplate attending senior college. Production jobs will be used as the basis of the shop work and the tools and equipment will be accumulated during the courses in order that a kit of tools may be provided for each graduate of the course. Work includes twenty-five hours a week to be spent in shop practice, and ten hours of related work to teach the student to correlate manual and technical skill.

The vocational department of Kilgore College is presenting a comprehensive study and practical training of rotary drilling equipment and methods of drilling. This course will train men with limited experience or those desiring additional technical skill in rotary drill operations. It is sponsored by the American Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors and the University of Texas through the Division of Extension. A recent survey has shown the need for a selected group of young men to assist engineers and geologists in modern deep well drilling. This training and a few years of experience will qualify a man for a very responsible position in the industry.

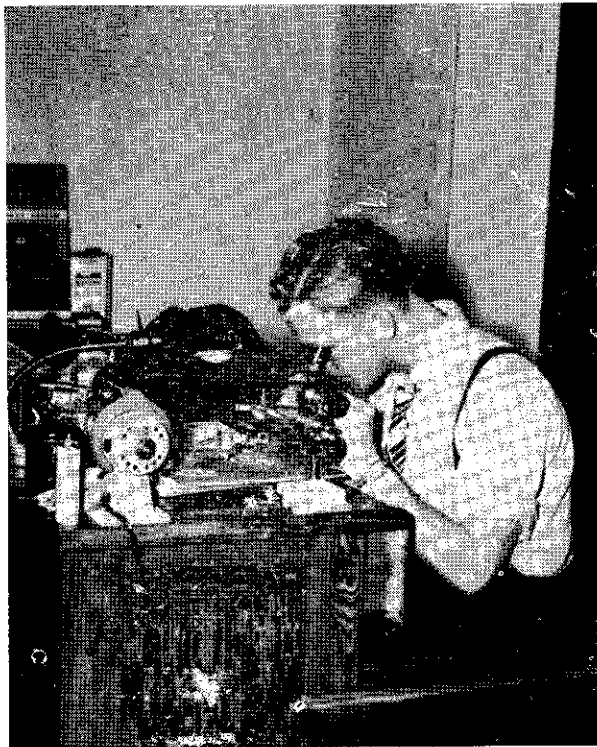


Fig. 7.--Horology (watch-making)

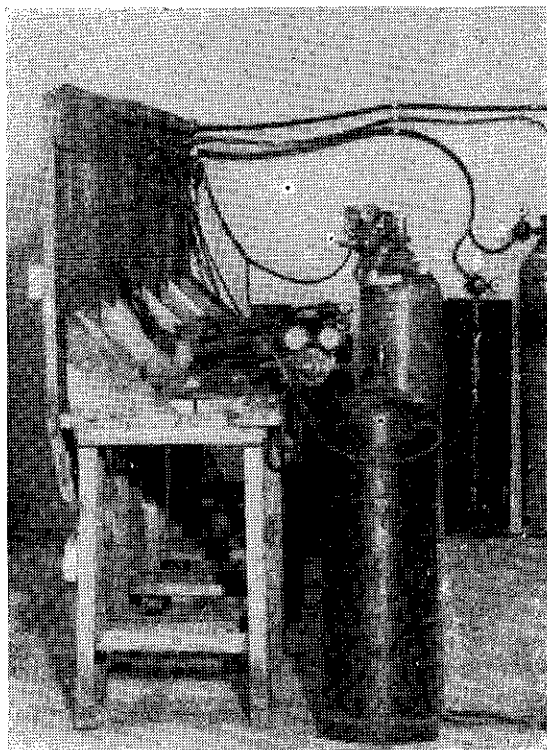


Fig. 8.--Welding booth

Modern machinery and drilling equipment is being installed so that each student can learn to operate and maintain every piece of equipment used in the industry.

The following article appeared in the Dallas Morning News:

COLLEGE COURSE PRACTICAL

By Robert M. Hayes,
East Texas Bureau of the News

Kilgore, Texas, September 20.--Those youngsters who scramble daily over the big oil rig near the Kilgore Junior College are neither vandals nor pranksters but serious minded students learning a vocation the hard way.

At present there are forty-six enrollees from six states and one foreign country who are taking the college's oil drilling practices course, believed to be the only one of its kind in the country. In addition to classroom and shop work, the boys are given practical training on a standard, full-scale derrick they erected themselves on the campus.

The training program, inaugurated last February, has the sponsorship and cooperation of the American Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, headquartered in Dallas.

The course requires a full year.

"There are no dawdlers in the class," says R. C. Watson, in charge of the college's vocational training program. "It's not that kind of a course. The work is hard and unless a student is genuinely interested he is not going to stick it out."

Many of the boys are former oil field workers preparing themselves for better jobs. A large percentage are hopeful of foreign assignments. One of the students, Kenneth Sewell of Gladewater, worked two years for Standard Oil Company in Egypt before joining the class.

Last month eighteen students took temporary jobs with drilling contractors in the East Texas field. This was a part of their field work for which they were allowed credit.

The full course of study calls for 1200 hours. It provides all the training necessary to qualify as a competent drill crew member. The course is divided into two sections--the drilling techniques and applied mechanics--and includes instruction in chemistry, geology, safety training, machine shop and other related work. For those interested in foreign service, a course in conversational Spanish is available.

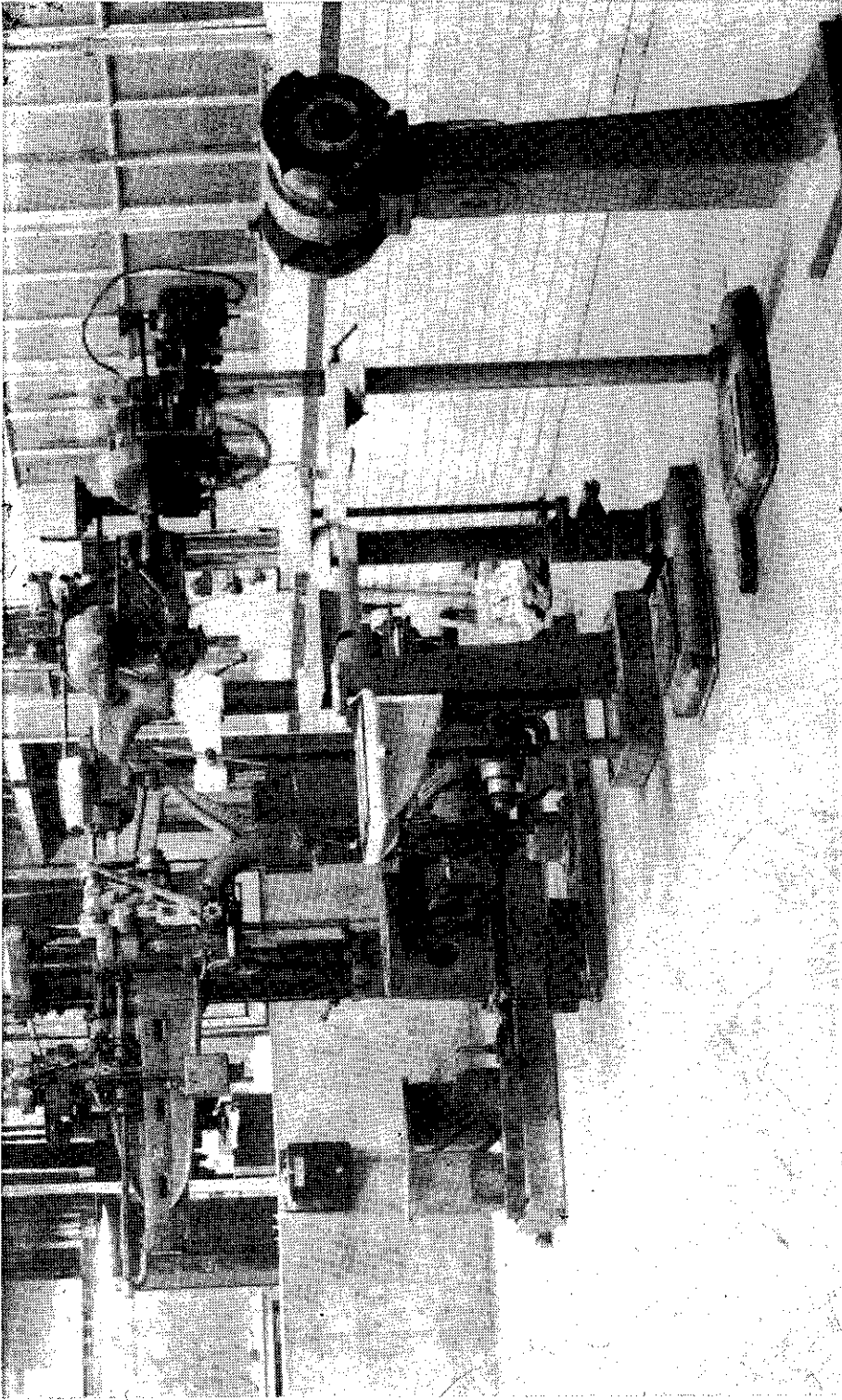


Fig. 9.--Inside view of the shop building showing lathes

Kilgore College in conjunction with the Kilgore Flying School is qualified under the Veterans Administration to conduct both private and commercial flying courses. In these two courses the following subjects are treated: Civil Air Regulations, Navigation, Meteorology, general service of aircraft, theory of flight, radio, engine, propellers, parachutes, and instruments.

Student Activities

Kilgore College encourages and fosters activities under the direction of faculty advisers. Students, however, may be limited in activities since too much emphasis on student activities may interfere with regular academic work.

Assembly.--Two hours are set aside each week for assembly, which all students are required to attend. The main purpose of the assembly is to create unity among the students of Kilgore College. The programs, which are prepared by the faculty and students, are instructive as well as entertaining.

Social Clubs.--Kilgore College does not foster national fraternities and sororities; students are, however, permitted to organize local social clubs under faculty supervision. An average grade of C is required before the student is eligible for membership in any of the following clubs: Alpha Omega, Kilgore College Barbs, Chi Sigma, Sans Souci, Lone Rangers, Zeta Beta Xi, Kappa Sigma Lambda and Les Mesdames.

The Band.--Kilgore College is very proud of the fact that it possesses one of the best junior college bands in the

state. It is under the direction of Howell L. Walker who has had years of experience in teaching and conducting bands and has studied in the U. S. Army Band School in France, and has also studied under such well known and accomplished teachers as E. I. Church, Tony Cruze, Carl Venth, and others.

Band scholarships are offered to students if they meet the requirements of good character, scholastic standing and proficiency in band performance. The band plays for all college activities and civic affairs.

Symphony.--The fifty-six piece symphony orchestra, under the direction of Mrs. Vergean England Estes, gave its debut performance on March 16, 1941, in the Kilgore College Gymnasium to a capacity audience of some eight hundred people.

The orchestra draws its membership from Kilgore, Longview, Tyler, Gladewater, and surrounding East Texas towns. The orchestra was organized September 25, 1940, and is sponsored by Kilgore College as a contribution to the musical life of the whole East Texas community it serves.

College choir.--This is a club for both young men and women who are interested in singing. Miss Thelma Martensen is director of this group. Numerous public appearances are made each year in Kilgore as well as throughout the oil belt. In 1939 and 1940 Kilgore College was host to the statewide Junior College Choral Contest. Approximately 250 students entered the contest the first year and 350 entered the second year. The purpose of this contest was to promote choral ensemble as well as social contact with neighboring institutions.

Engineers' Society.--Membership in this society is open to freshmen and sophomores who are engineering students. Meetings are held twice a month, at which time the members present and discuss current topics on the various phases of engineering. Prominent men in the field of engineering will deliver talks at some of these meetings throughout the school year. The society will also make inspection trips to well locations and to some of the refineries.

The Footlight Players.--This is a dramatic club of the college which was organized to furnish a laboratory period for students enrolled in the dramatic art courses. It is open to all bona-fide students of acting, make-up, lighting, and stage management. The club emphasizes the production of one act plays, since it will participate in the annual contests of the Texas Junior College Speech Association.

Phi Pho Pi.--Kilgore College is a member of the Texas Chapter, Gamma, of the National Junior College Speech Forum, Phi Pho Pi. This organization is open to all students of the college who are interested in developing themselves in speaking. Regular meetings are held, and by practicing debating and speaking, the candidates are prepared for the inter-collegiate contests in which a number of students will engage.

Kilgore College won the national junior college debate championship in the boys' division for the years 1941 and 1942.

Phi Theta Kappa.--On May 25, 1936, an honorary scholastic fraternity, with sixteen charter members, was organized for the purpose of promoting scholarship, developing character and

cultivating fellowship among the students of Kilgore College. This group has been affiliated with the national junior college scholastic fraternity, Phi Theta Kappa, similar to the Phi Beta Kappa of senior colleges. The same goals and rules governing membership control both organizations.

Members are chosen through election by the chapter and a faculty committee, on the basis of scholarship, leadership and character. To be eligible for membership, a student must have completed one term or semester in a junior college, have carried fifteen hours per week, twelve of which must be in the arts and sciences; he must be of good moral character and possess recognized qualities of leadership; he must be in the upper ten per cent of the regularly enrolled student body.

Future Teachers' Club.--All prospective teachers are eligible for membership in the F.T.A. club. It is an organization devoted to the interests of students of education. It is a branch of the National Education Association. The social affairs of the club are planned by its members.

Publications. The College newspaper, "The Flare," is published by the students of the journalism class. All journalism students are expected to work on this paper to satisfy laboratory requirements.

In the spring a student annual or picture book is published, which gives in pictures the history of the year's activities.

Student Congress.--Kilgore College Student Congress is sponsored by Vernon Parrott. This organization serves to stimulate and direct the extra-curricular activities of the college.

It is composed of representatives elected by each class, a college-student president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, elected by the student body as a whole with the president and vice president of the classes.

"K" Club.--The "K" club is an athletic club open only to men who have been granted the "K" by the college. This club is organized for the purpose of promoting fellowship, scholarship, and wholesome sports among the students. The members of this club assist the coaches in enforcing training rules and promoting the purposes of athletic sports.

Lawyers' Club.--All pre-law students are eligible for the Lawyers' Club. It is an organization devoted to the interests of prospective lawyers. It gives them an opportunity for group discussion of current topics, problems of government, and international relations. The social affairs of the club are a major part of the school's activities and create a bond of unity among those students with common interests in the law.

Welders' Club.--The Welders' Club is open to vocational students taking shop. The purpose of this organization is to bring about a closer relationship among the boys. Dances, barbecues, baseball and allied games are some of the activities in which they engage during the year.

Science Academy Club.--The Science Academy Club is composed of students who are enrolled in the Science Department and of those who are interested in science. The club began in 1936 as the Pre-Medical Society. After joining the Junior Academy of Science of Texas, the club changed its name to the present one, making the Pre-Medical Society a part of it. The purpose of the club is to create and further knowledge of science.

Rangerettes.--The Rangerettes, an organization which adds color to the school's activities and assists in promoting school spirit was organized on May 14, 1940, and a week's training was given before the semester ended. Its first performance in uniform was in September, 1940.

To become a member of the Rangerettes each girl has to try out for her position--the qualities of rhythm, personality, dependability, figure, carriage, gracefulness, enthusiasm, and cooperation are considered necessary. Any girl wishing to become an officer in the Rangerettes has an equal chance of trying out before the group. Each new member and all officers are chosen by the instructor and the members of the Rangerettes.

Athletics

Kilgore College fosters that form of athletics which is helpful in the development of the student's character. Such games as football, baseball, track, tennis, and basketball are the most popular.

A student must take at least twelve and pass in nine semester hours to be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Athletes who are not interested in making their grades, and those who do not conform to training rules are not encouraged to enter.

Kilgore College played a non-conference schedule in the fall of 1935⁵. In the spring of 1936 the Junior College Conference--a state-wide organization--was formed with Kilgore College as a member. This conference was composed of twenty teams and was divided into four districts. The winner in each of these districts played the winner of the other until a championship was decided. Kilgore College entered the Texas Conference in 1936. In 1939 Kilgore College withdrew from the Junior College Conference and became a member of the Texas Junior College Conference which was formed out of the merger of two conferences.

Since 1936 Kilgore College has won football championships in 1936, 1938, 1939, 1941, and 1946. The college was co-champions in football with Schriener Institute in 1937. Kilgore College won the track championship in 1939 and again in 1948. In basketball, Kilgore College won the 1943, 1946, and 1947 championships.⁶

The championship of the conference of which Kilgore College is a member is to be determined on a percentage basis,

⁵Jimmy Parks, Athletic Director, statement in interview.

⁶Kilgore College Catalogue, 1939-40, p. 28.

after a representative schedule had been played. Because of the large number of colleges participating in the Texas Junior College Conference, eight schools--Lamar, North Texas Agricultural College, Paris, San Angelo, John Tarleton, Schreiner, Tyler, and Kilgore--formed, in May, 1947, the Southwestern Junior College Conference. This conference has about the same rules of eligibility and years of student participation as those of the other conference but the limited number of participating schools demands fewer problems in arranging games and in deciding the championship.

The following is an editorial from the Los Angeles Examiner on the first Little Rose Bowl game played in the famous Pasadena Rose Bowl in 1946 between Kilgore College and Compton College of California.

Today's Little Rose Bowl football game is the first of what is hoped will be a long, glorious and continuous annual series which will bring together the best junior college teams in the West against the best junior college team in the rest of the United States.

It is fortunate that for this first inter-sectional classic that the two top-rated junior college elevens in America were selected to play--that is, Compton (California) and Kilgore (Texas) Junior College.

Those who take the time and trouble to rate junior college teams have named Compton as the No. 2 jaysee eleven in the Nation and Kilgore of Texas as the No. 1 two-year college team in America.

While Compton will trot onto the famous Rose Bowl gridiron rated as the favorite by margins ranging from one to seven points (mostly because the experts who rate jaysee teams nationally have rightly or wrongly placed California junior colleges on the top of the heap almost every season).

But when the national junior college football championship is at stake and due to the fact that Texas college teams have gained nationwide respect

and annually attain high national rating, it would not be surprising if Kilgore would burst wide-open the myth of California junior college football superiority.

It is a cinch that the All-Southern California Board of Football, of which this writer is a member, secured the records of every top junior college in the East, Midwest, South and Southwest to find the strongest possible Eastern representative and Kilgore of Texas was the choice--and the Rangers, I am sure, will accredit themselves notably here this afternoon.

Kilgore, which is situated in the heart of the giant East Texas oil fields, has won the Texas state junior college championship five times and shared the title once during the past nine years. It is a record that could not be ignored.

In accepting the bid to come to Southern California, Kilgore will be the second Texas Team in all history to have played in the Rose Bowl. Southern Methodist University came West to play in New Year's Day Rose Bowl classic against Stanford University on January 1, 1936.

The bringing together of the youth of various sections of the nation, the residents of one state to come and mingle with those of another, the exchange of ideas which come about through such fine sports events as the one here today gives Americans, both young and old, an education that isn't written in any book.

The Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce and particularly its game committee headed by Chairman Walter Hoefflin are deserving of the highest congratulations for the sponsorship of this titanic grid clash. The All-Southern California Board of Football, headed by Bill Schroeder of the Helms Athletic Foundation and consisting of sports writers from every Los Angeles metropolitan newspaper, said of the Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce's project, "We adjudge this Little Rose Bowl football game as the greatest single contribution ever made to junior college athletics in America."

Let no group of little men, or dictatorial, ever put this newly found American sports institution asunder!

Long may the Little Rose Bowl game live--free from petty jealousy, conference entanglements and professional curtailment.⁷

The final score was Kilgore 0; Compton, 19.

The new track constructed at the cost of \$15,000 was the thing that has brought renewed interest in track athletics. This track was constructed according to the regulations of the A.A.U.W. with straightaway lanes and with a straightaway of 220 yards as well as the quarter of a mile track. Each year many dual, district and regional meets are held here as are State Junior College Conference track and field meets.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The city of Kilgore, Texas, was very fortunate in the discovery of oil in December, 1930. The Kilgore College, in turn was also fortunate in that the tax evaluation for the college district in 1936--the first year the college was in active operation--was \$35,000,000. This was an increase over the tax evaluation of the previous years when the maximum valuation was \$800,000. Of this amount the public schools received eighty per cent and the college received twenty per cent. The tax rate during this time was only twenty cents for the college on the one hundred dollar valuation. Other funds necessary to operate and maintain the college were and still are received from tuition fees paid by the students.

Kilgore College became independent of the Kilgore Public School System when in September, 1946, B. E. Masters became president. It is no longer connected with the Kilgore Independent School District, but has a district all its own. The College district was evaluated at \$100,000,000 at the time of its separation. At this time the tax rate was reduced to only twenty cents on the one hundred dollar valuation. After Sabine, White Oak, and Leveretts Chapel voted to become a

part of the Kilgore College District, the college district evaluation was increased to \$166,000,000 as reported for the 1947-48 fiscal year. The total evaluation of the college district for the fiscal year 1948-49 is \$200,000,000.

The outlook for Kilgore College seems very bright. The enrollment has increased each year for the first eight years. There was, however, a decrease in 1943-44 and 1944-45. This was due to the war. During the last three years, the enrollment has more than doubled, and the 1946-47 enrollment was more than three times a normal year. This drastic increase is due to the influx of verterans. This is illustrated by the fact that during the 1946-47 session, 1396 men enrolled in Kilgore College. This number of male students alone far exceeded the total enrollment for any one year during the first decade of its existence.

However, when the veterans have used up their rights under the present G.I. laws, the enrollment will no doubt return to its normal proportions. It is predicted that the average enrollment for such years will be between 650 and 750 students for the regular sessions. This estimate is based on the fact that during the 1939-40 session which is considered normal for the college, the enrollment was 693, and the enrollment for the 1940-41 session was 765. No consideration has been given to the fact that the population of the Kilgore College district will increase.

Kilgore College at the present time has property valued at \$398,423.82. This property includes the Administration Building, Art Building, Girls Building, Vocational Building, Shop Building, Cafeteria, Chemistry Building, Home Economics Building, Boys Large Dormitory, Boys Small Dormitory, and track field. These buildings are now considered to be worth well over twice their original cost. This estimate is based on the proposition that building today costs approximately twice as much as it did at the time these buildings were constructed.

Much of the credit for the establishment, development and advancement of the Kilgore College goes to W. L. Dodson, Superintendent of the Kilgore Public Schools. Dodson was far-seeing in recognizing the need for a junior college in Kilgore. His endeavor has been rewarded by the establishment of a public school system and a public junior college both of which have incomes that are taxable. Dodson was also farseeing to develop a junior college in Kilgore because there was no other such institution within a radius of twenty-five miles. The Tyler Junior College is twenty-five miles away and the only senior college within the area is sixty miles away in Nacogdoches. Dodson knew that Kilgore was the most centrally located town within the area.

The curriculum of the Kilgore College has changed in many ways to meet the demands. It has had pleasant relations with the accrediting agencies and the State Department of Education. During the first year of its operations, the college

met all requirements for affiliation. The college has always complied with the requirements for issuing certificates. It has been necessary to do so in order to keep up the enrollment and to meet the competition from other colleges. The work at the Kilgore College is accepted by all standard colleges of Texas and other states. The policy of the college is to keep in touch with the trends and to advance whenever possible.

The course in oil field drilling is one of the first of its kind in the United States. The Vocational Department offers a wide variety of courses in all its divisions. Kilgore College serves the needs of the community in which it is located. This is accomplished by offering any type of course for people of any age, for which there is a demand. In some communities with junior colleges, the best service is rendered to those who seek the vocational and terminal courses. Since Texas has taken great strides in bringing industry within her borders, this vocational work will continue to grow in importance and in volume.

Kilgore College has six brick and reinforced concrete permanent buildings of similar architecture and five temporary buildings donated it by the Federal government. Due to wise financial management by trustees and executives in the early days of the college, the institution has no bonded indebtedness. The college has always paid cash for everything it has purchased.

The student body of Kilgore College has various forms of activities in which it engages. These include a fine band, choral club, the Rangerettes, departmental clubs, and service

organizations. The students also participate in many athletic events including football, basketball, track, tennis, baseball, golf and weight lifting. The school has developed more championship teams in the three major sports of football, basketball and track than any other junior college in Texas. Kilgore College was the first junior college to participate in the Junior Rose Bowl game in California when it played Compton Junior College of California.

The principle towns from which Kilgore College students come include Levetts Chapel, Overton, New London, Tyler, Henderson, Gaston, Gladewater, Sabine, Carlisle, Arp, White Oak, Pine Tree, Greggton, East Mountain, Union Grove, Spring Hill, Big Sandy and Longview. The ten buses cover approximately six hundred miles each day to bring students from all over the college district.

Recommendations

1. The boys large and small dormitories at the present house the boys who attend the college either with a scholarship in football, basketball or track. It is recommended that a dormitory be erected to house boys not included in this group.

2. It is recommended that a dormitory for girls be built to house girls who would attend the college if they were assured of a place to live. It would attract students from other parts of the state.

3. A larger gymnasium is recommended. A gymnasium that can accommodate the public in its interest in basketball is suggested.

4. Kilgore College has never attempted to be anything but a junior college in its thirteen years of existence. It is recommended that this policy be continued.

Conclusions

The word conclusion means to terminate or to end. Probably there is no such thing as an end when dealing with history. There are only facts of the past and assumptions for the future.

The Kilgore College as an institution is valuable for the educational and vocational development of all those who attend. It is also a great influence upon the lives of those who live in the community in which it is located.

It has attained a very useful level of service to the East Texas area. These conditions are true and have been growing noticeably for the past thirteen years. It seems reasonable, therefore, to conclude that like progress will continue in the years to come. With the many natural resources, the many paved roads for the transportation of students, the growing population, the efficient and wide-awake administration and faculty, the Kilgore College will be recognized as one of the finest colleges of its kind in the nation.

APPENDIX

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUATIONS FOR THE
KILGORE COLLEGE DISTRICT
1935-48

Year	Valuation	Rate Per \$100
1935-36	\$ 35,000,000.00	20¢
1936-37	34,300,000.00	20¢
1937-38	34,500,000.00	20¢
1938-39	35,000,000.00	20¢
1939-40	36,004,115.00	20¢
1940-41	36,391,140.00	20¢
1941-42	35,842,965.00	20¢
1942-43	36,068,790.00	20¢
1943-44	36,006,630.00	20¢
1944-45	36,181,675.00	15¢
1945-46	36,040,750.00	20¢
1946-47	100,000,000.00	20¢
1947-48	166,000,000.00	15¢
1948-49	200,000,000.00	--

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