TEN
GREAT
YEARS

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE
MURRAY, KY.
At the end of this school year, Murray State College will have completed ten of its most difficult and yet greatest years. These years followed the end of a tremendous world war, with all the upheaval and change that come in such a period.

Important in comparison with any decade of Murray State's earlier history, the latter years of the present decade are particularly striking when contrasted with the years immediately following the war.

The close of World War II found Murray, like most other American institutions of higher learning in the United States, highly disorganized and faced with an enormous influx of war veterans.

Enrollment, which had sunk to almost nothing in the war period of 1942-45, zoomed upward to 1,498 students in the fall of 1946-47, the largest fall enrollment at MSC up to then.

The influx, coupled with a lack of teachers and many needed facilities, posed major problems for the new president, Dr. Ralph Woods, who had come to Murray in 1945.

Many of the faculty members had gone into the service or to other institutions and a number did not return. It was essential to find teachers and to keep those who were being offered better opportunities elsewhere.

The classrooms and dormitories on the campus were overcrowded. In addition, it had been impossible to keep them in good repair during the war, and the task of getting the college plant back into working operation was an immediate problem.

The heavy drop in students and the sharp cut in the teaching staff during the war had resulted in the dropping of many courses and the reduction of some departmental offerings to practically nothing.

Perhaps most serious of all was the lack of housing for married students who were coming to the college in numbers never known before.
The Beginning...

With every college in the country and many business firms and governmental agencies bidding for persons trained to teach, President Woods faced an enormous task in filling places vacated during the war and in getting new teachers. In 1946-47 a total of 32 additional teachers were appointed. To encourage teachers to stay, President Woods increased the amount of money going into teachers' salaries by 46 per cent, a sum still insufficient to meet the constant rise in the cost of living.

The year 1946-47 was marked by important changes in the curriculum. Course offerings, heavily cut during the war, were restored to pre-war levels and new courses were added. A program in ceramics study was opened in the art division of the Fine Arts department. Electronics and radio courses were offered by the Physical Science department to permit students to become familiar with recent developments in those fields. The Speech department was revitalized.

The most striking addition was that of the Industrial Arts department, which rapidly became one of the popular departments of the college. Increased emphasis was placed upon Agriculture and Home Economics at the college and an arrangement was made by President Woods with the State Department of Vocational Education whereby students completing their work in Agriculture at Murray State College could take their methods and practice teaching courses at the University of Kentucky and transfer their credits back to Murray to be fully prepared as teachers of vocational agriculture.

In an effort to extend benefits of the college to the area being developed by the Tennessee Valley Authority, the presi-
The tempo of the first year was maintained by Dr. Woods and the rest of the college staff in subsequent years. Progress was not slowed down in the spring of 1948 when President Woods was sent to Greece for three months by the Department of State, as Mr. Marvin Wrather, assistant president, continued along lines already laid down by the president during the latter’s absence.

The year 1947-48 saw the completion of the new technical training building which was named the Industrial Arts building. The building was erected in back of the Fine Arts building on the site of the original football field of the college. Much of the tools, machinery and equipment came from U. S. Government war surplus. Other improvements at this time

- Dr. Woods was especially pleased with the acquisition of surplus property and equipment furnished by the United States government at virtually no cost. Taking advantage of assets offered by the Army and Navy through the War Assets Administration and the Federal Works Administration, he secured a large quantity of desks, chairs, filing cabinets, typewriters, and tables for offices and classrooms at little or no costs other than transportation. Other special equipment was obtained for the Industrial Arts department and for the use of classes in chemistry, physics, biology, agriculture, home economics, and for the kitchens and cafeterias. Many of these acquisitions are still giving value and have increased the ability of the college to better their offerings to students.

- The question of getting better and more housing occupied a top place in the program of the college in 1946-47. During that year, with the aid of the Federal Public Housing Administration, the president got from the government surplus housing which added 33 houses and 17 trailers for occupancy by married students. In addition, temporary dormitories for 60 single veterans and 64 apartments for married veterans were built with Federal Public Housing Administration funds.

- The college administration had hoped to solve its classroom shortage when the legislature appropriated money for a science building. When Governor Willis vetoed half of the appropriation, a decision was made to build one floor of the building with the available appropriation and to take steps toward erecting a technical training building.
Nurses in Biology Laboratory

included installation of air conditioning equipment in the window-less Fine Arts building and the construction of a long needed boiler house.

The year 1947-48 was marked also by recognition on the part of the legislature in the spring that Murray and other Kentucky state teachers colleges were now engaged in training students in many fields other than teaching. They were, therefore, permitted to drop the word “teachers” from their title. Another event of the year of note was that 27 per cent more money was put into teachers salaries, although this was not enough to keep pace with living costs.

Two major developments of the second year, 1948-49, were the arranging with the Jennie Stuart Memorial Hospital of Hopkinsville for a three year training program for nurses which would include three semesters of work at Murray State, the remainder at the hospital, and the gaining of a grant to complete the Science building. Near the end of 1948 the State Building Commission gave the college nearly $500,000 to finish the building and upon its completion in January of 1950 four departments moved in: Agriculture, Home Economics, Physical Sciences, and Biological Sciences. This relieved the classroom pressure and enabled the Administrative departments to enlarge.

Murray’s Thoroughbreds, who had won the KIAC football championship in 1947, followed this in the fall of 1948 with the winning of the co-championship of the newly formed Ohio Valley Conference and with an invitation to take part in the Tangerine Bowl in Florida.

In the summer of 1949 the college, together with the town of Murray, sponsored the first North-South basketball classic for high school stars in which 20 states were represented. This game has become an annual affair and has made Murray’s name widely known.

Owensboro-Daviess County hospital joined Murray’s nursing education program in 1948-49, increasing the scope of Murray’s service to Kentucky.

The Mary Ed Mecoy Hall Memorial Art gallery, named for the late head of the art division, was opened by the college on May 28, 1950 in order to provide a place for temporary exhibits.

In 1950-51 the college was experiencing growing pains with part of its physical plant. An eight inch water line was installed around the campus as well as a modern heating system to take care of the demands of an ever growing campus. The fall enrollment had climbed to 1,560 in 1947-48 and then as the number of war veterans decreased, had levelled off at a figure between 1400-1500, still well above the pre-war level.

Science Building
To provide for future needs, additional property was bought on the limits of the college.

Since the fall of 1950, the college has seen a continuing number of developments and honors in various departments. The MSC football team won the OVC championship again in 1950 and 1951, and the basketball squad won the Ohio Valley Conference title in 1950-51 and the tournament championship the same year.

In 1952 the U. S. Army established a Reserve Officers Training Program on the campus and began to set a number of records for excellence and awards. The College News, which had an excellent record since its beginning in 1927, has won the highest recognition from national collegiate press associations every year since 1950. The Murray State College Debating team, which also has an excellent record since its organization in 1928, has had a continuing record of success since the war. In 1952 one of its teams was selected by a national forensic fraternity, Tau Kappa Alpha.

In 1955 the college built a new basketball gymnasium to give facilities for seating 5,000 fans. For some years the college had been turning away customers for its major games and had been unable to accommodate the crowds which wanted to attend the regional basketball games which have been held at the college for some time. It was thus a service to the college and to the area of West Kentucky to provide the largest gym west of Owensboro.

For some years one of the chief problems faced by the college has been that of providing dormitory space for stu-
udents, especially women students. The first and only major woman's dormitory built up to this year was Wells Hall, finished in 1925. The problem for men has been almost as serious. Ordway Hall, which houses 150 men, was built in 1930 and has been supplemented only by temporary structures and by private housing near the campus.

By shifting men from Ordway Hall to Wells Hall and the women from Wells to Ordway upon completion of the new million dollar women's dorm, officially named the Ralph H. Woods Hall, MSC will have additional college housing for both sexes. It is estimated that there will be room for 250 additional men, 200 women as a result.

During the ten year period, Murray State has had the help of the following men on the Board of Regents:

Claude T. Winslow, 1930-32  Hollis Franklin, 1947-56
1940-56  O. B. Springer, 1950-
C. E. Crume, 1936-46  R. M. Price, 1946-
Charles Ferguson, 1936-47  Louis Litchfield, 1956-
George Hart, 1940-46  John Blackburn, 1956-
Hubert Meredith, 1946-50

Superintendents of Public Instruction who have served as chairman of the board include: John Fred Williams 1944-48, Boswell B. Hodgkins 1948-52, Wendell Butler 1952-56, and Robert R. Martin 1956.

Today Murray has 1,897 students (fall enrollment) and is on the upswing. In the matter of classroom space, the new Science building offers 20 modern lecture rooms, 19 laboratory rooms, 13 offices, and a host of special purpose rooms. The Administration building now houses but one academic department, military science, and has enough room to handle the expanded administrative requirements of a larger student body.

Today Murray State has a modern industrial arts building filled with modern machines it did not have ten years ago, together with a new gymnasium which will accommodate 5,000 persons (as against 2,100 formerly) and a new dormitory is rising.

In ten years the college has added more than $3,000,000 to its plant and equipment and has added the departments of nursing education, military science, and industrial arts. It has put a special emphasis upon needs of the area such as agriculture, home economics, business, and the overall in-service needs of teachers. It has a faculty of over one hundred and will have more as the needs grow. It has met the pressures of a post-war boom, a Korean war, and has added honor to its name in many fields and activities.

The value of the college plant is now well over $10,000,000 and is continuing to increase. President Woods has plans for many things needed by the college to meet a growing student body such as a Student Union building, a Social Science building, and another dormitory building.

The past ten years have been years of growth. They have been great years. May the next ten also be great!