

Has Unusual History

By FERDIE J. DEERING

Among the departments of East Central State Teachers' college which have enjoyed a healthy growth during the past few years is the East Central Journal.

This very important part of the institution has suffered many reversals and has borne up under numerous handicaps until it now occupies a place among the very best of college newspapers in the United States.

The history of the East Central Journal is as varied and full of romance as the school itself.

Many of the old-timers of the school will remember when East Central took a forward step in 1916 and installed a "modern" printing plant.

This plant consisted of a small job press and a very limited amount of type. Printing classes were then a part of the regular schedule of the school.

A. L. Fentem, now director of the band, was in charge of the printing department.

E. C. Wilson, librarian at the present time, was appointed editor of a school newspaper and in September, 1916, "The East Centralite" made its first appearance.

The paper was an undersized four or eight page publication, appeared on the campus and throughout the East Central district very irregularly during its four years of existence.

It started as a bi-weekly, then some time later was published

only once a month. It was published under very trying circumstances and after struggling through most of the school year of 1918-1919 became a bi-monthly publication.

During the year, Dr. E. A. MacMillan took over the reins and edited the East Centralite until May, 1919, when it disappeared and East Central was without a newspaper until 1922.

The East Central Journal made its first appearance in September, 1922, with R. S. Newcomb as editor.

In keeping with the growth of the school, this paper was larger than its predecessor, although it was not yet regular size. It appeared as a monthly publication at this time.

Several poems by Welborn Hope are to be seen in the pages of the early Journals. Mr. Hope has since had his writings published in magazines of national circulation.

In 1924 the Journal had grown to a circulation of 4,000 copies and the usual edition contained eight or 10 pages.

It enjoyed a very prosperous period at this time, the columns being well filled with the advertisements of local business men.

"Scoops" and excellent feature stories were abundant at that time, it seems.

One edition carries a full page spread of a program given by a grand opera group which visited

Continued on Page 2, No. 5

East Central, another has a long story of a speech delivered to the student body by William Jennings Bryan.

Stories of many other notables who have visited the institution may be found in the files of the early Journals. Essays written by students and faculty members, admonishing students to refrain from class cutting and carrying on conversations in the library are to be found in the papers.

In 1924 the East Central Journal became a regular sized newspaper, with a long list of directors, editors and staff members appearing in each edition.

It was at that time an eight page monthly paper and was still enjoying the prosperity of the financial boom with plenty of advertising patronage.

Mr. Newcomb resigned his position as editor in 1925 and E. C. Wilson was appointed to his place. Ben L. Morrison was selected as business manager.

The following year Mr. Wilson's duties as librarian became so heavy that he was forced to give up the editorship and Mr. Morrison was promoted to the position.

When Mr. Morrison became editor, the Journal was published weekly and during the days of its early existence often ran eight pages.

Heretofore the Journal had been devoted mainly to district school news, but the English department organized classes in journalism which have since been furnishing the Journal with a large amount of campus news.

During the last five years the East Central Journal has won three first places in the National Interscholastic Press association contests, sponsored by Columbia university.

The East Central Journal serves a very definite purpose in the East Central district and throughout the United States by supplying former students with news of their school.

Besides furnishing a medium of contact between the school and its students at work in the field, it has become a connecting link between the several schools of the East Central district.

East Central students in all parts of the United States receive the Journal each week, the total circulation running well above 4,500.

The Journal staff for the pres