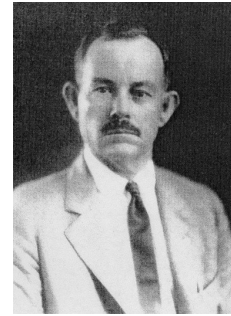

Wichita County Archive News

October 2014



Lee Clark

Men With Vision and Determination



J. W. Cantwell

If Lee Clark seemed nervous as he strode into the high school auditorium on a March evening in 1922, it shouldn't have been a surprise. It wasn't the audience that caused him anxiety—as school Superintendent of Wichita Falls, he was enormously popular with the parents and teachers in the room. Rather, it would have been the vision he was about to share with his listeners. For Clark wished to redesign the city's educational system: “We have to accustom ourselves to thinking in larger terms”: he would exhort his listeners. “Now is the time and place for dreaming dreams.”

And dreams were closer to reality as funds were found and the new building to house both the high school and junior college was completed in 1924. But Lee Clark, who was terminated in 1923 over a dispute with a school board member over the location of a new elementary school, was not there for the celebration. J. W. Cantwell took the reins when only lower walls were standing. He had to move the construction forward, choose the school's equipment, and plan the classroom use. He, too, was the man for the job and the dream became a reality. (Taken from *A History of Midwestern State University* by Dr. Everett Kindig.

Why does MSU have such an attractive campus?

Ralph Harvey told us that when he was on the Board of Regents, he proposed his wife, Juanita's idea that all the brick should be a near the same as possible.