

growth comes to kentucky

A new look is emerging in smaller cities and towns over the United States. / Every economic indicator assures us this country is experiencing an unprecedented period of prosperity. More buildings, more highways, more hospitals, more schools, more factories, more of everything is being built. / This is a prosperity which Kentucky's smaller cities and towns are sharing. / And Kentucky's smaller towns and cities are being used to exemplify the widespread prosperity. / What has happened to the wall-flower municipality of our past? / Illustrated on the opposite page is part of the answer, the University's system of community colleges. / Through community colleges, thousands of young Kentucky men and women have an unprecedented opportunity for training beyond high school. Kenneth Cayce of Hopkinsville has written: "Our community is faced with the responsibility and challenge to grow culturally and economically in order that job opportunities will be afforded to those who have equipped themselves with the ability and knowledge which the community college affords them. This combination of a rapidly growing community coupled with complete educational facilities through the community college level will certainly open up individual and community opportunity which will allow our economy to keep pace with the rapidly growing national economy and population." / As a nation, we always have had a remarkable preoccupation with growth. In the nineteenth century we tackled the development of the frontier with great enthusiasm. Today, without noticeable trembling, we face hub-to-hub and bumper-to-bumper traffic congestions, brave the sight of bulldozers ripping down trees and moving earth for suburbia, and realize that just around the corner are population problems which will demand more of tomorrow's generation—educationally, spiritually and psychologically than is demanded of today's generations. / Growth is the central theme of the land grant system of American colleges and universities. In looking forward to a population of 250,000,000 by the year 1985, a new concept of higher education has been utilized in making training beyond high school available to as many citizens as possible. This is the community college system, a decentralized, grassroots approach to higher education. / Industrially oriented cities and towns with community college facilities are fast changing the Kentucky image. Enthusiasm abounds in community college towns who feel confident of their municipality's future. H. D. Strunk, chairman of the Somerset Community College advisory board, has written: / "Somerset Community College, to my mind, is the greatest boost our community has ever experienced. The coming of this school, a part of the University of Kentucky, will have a tremendous impact on the area as a whole, it will upgrade our economy, add to the cultural image, and, most importantly, it will make possible two years of college for a greater number of youths who otherwise would not be able to afford a college education. I believe that through higher education we can make areas such as Appalachia self supporting."

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