Lee Robertson Statue

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It's been nearly three weeks since a bronze statue of Lee Robertson was unveiled on WKU's campus.

But as Amy Bingham reports in this week's View from the Hill, the man known as "Mr. Western" says the honor still hasn't sunk in.

Lee Robertson came to work at his alma mater in 1960, and now, more than five decades later he still works there. And with the latest addition to the Augenstein Alumni Center, his presence will be felt for years to come.

"Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Western Lee Robertson"

So what did Lee Robertson think when he saw himself immortalized in bronze?

"I said hey this can't be happening to this guy who struggled and got through college."

Friends and family packed the Augenstein Alumni Center for the statue dedication just before Christmas.

In his speech, Lee spoke to his alter ego about the bronze fraternity he was joining.

"I said I'm gonna get these people to listen while I talk to Lee the bronze, then I mentioned the other five stalwarts I felt a little uncomfortable being compared with."

Those stalwarts include Henry Hardin Cherry, Ed Diddle, Abe Lincoln, Robert Guthrie and soon, Big Red.

The Alumni Center is a fitting home for the Robertson statue considering Lee served as alumni director on the hill for 25 years, a job his wife calls the perfect role for him.

"We've been on trips and he's happy to talk to people, not sight see or this and that, that's been his life talking to people and getting to know them and getting them to know Western."

"Everything that happened to me at Western has been a highlight. That's the reason it's so easy for me to sell it because it comes from the heart."

And he's truly humbled that his statue will help welcome students to the hill for generations to come.

"Don't know whether I deserve it but I appreciate it and I'm gonna enjoy the heck out of it."

Lee Robertson grew up in Calhoun in McLean County He served in World War II then attended WKU on the GI Bill. He had already been a coach, teacher, principal and superintendent before he was even hired at Western in 1960.

With this week's View from the Hill, I'm Amy Bingham.

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