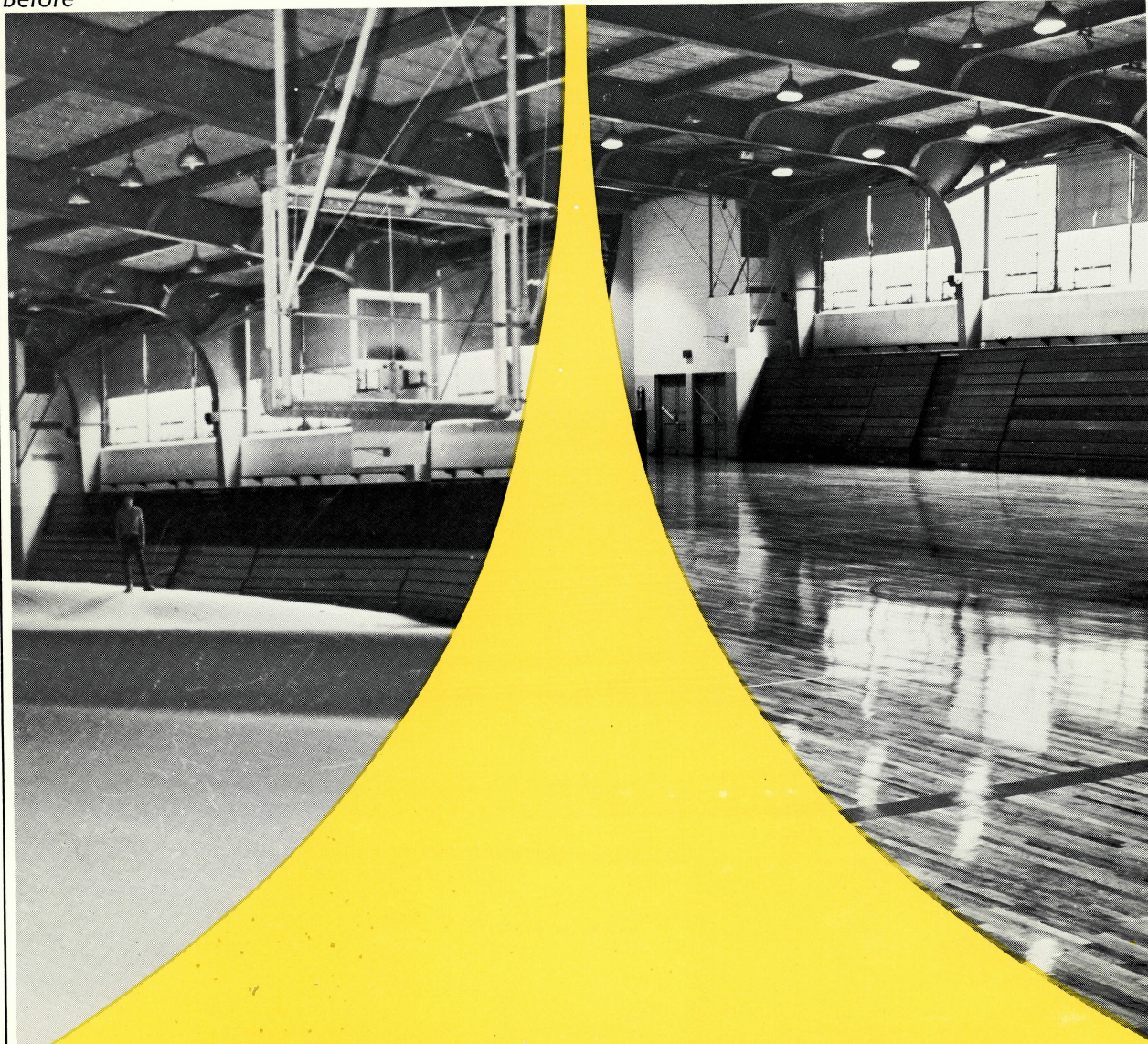


Operation 'Sneepack', 1972 June 26 - 1972
December 31

Before

After



OPERATION 'SNAPBACK'

June 26, 1972-December 31, 1972

WILKES COLLEGE, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.





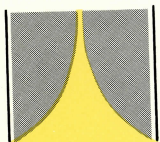
Inset: A current which broke through the center of the basement level of the library pushed ceiling tiles, books and furniture together.

The basement of the library, cleared of mud and debris, now forms a storage area for books and periodicals arriving daily.



Inset: Inches of mud cover the wall-to-wall carpeting, tables and chairs in the college cafeteria.

Decorated for the holidays, and with temporary window repairs, the college cafeteria now serves the student body at a normal capacity.



OPERATION 'SNAPBACK'

In June, 1972 Wyoming Valley and Wilkes College experienced the devastation which accompanied Hurricane Agnes and was shared by so many individuals throughout several Eastern States.

The Community of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area incurred damage to physical property to a greater degree than any other community.

Wilkes College received the dubious distinction of incurring the single greatest loss of any institution during any natural disaster in the nation's history. The extent of the damage has been estimated separately by the College, by a private firm, and by federal and state engineers. The mean of these independent estimates exceeds \$13-million.

All 64 buildings on campus were inundated to the first-floor level. Consequently, the Eugene S. Farley Library lost 58,000 volumes, including the entire serials collection and the Treasure Room of rare books. The physics and engineering departments, areas of the College which have recently been expanded to offer the M.S. degree in physics, and B.S. degrees in materials and electronics engineering and environmental science, were completely inundated and experienced severe damage to laboratory and scientific equipment carefully accumulated over the past several years.

The multi-million-dollar Dorothy Dickson Darte Music Hall and Center for the Performing Arts, which was completed in

1969, was considered one of the finest theatre facilities in the East. This facility experienced severe damage when 27 feet of water filled the major practice room, indicating the extent of damage throughout the entire building.

Other areas severely damaged include the gymnasium and athletic fields, the dining hall and dormitories, the bookstore, the administration building, and all classroom buildings.

When the floodwaters receded, the campus resembled a twisted, mud-filled nightmare. The College was indistinguishable from the Community because it, too, had experienced the same devastation as the floodwaters transformed Wyoming Valley into a great lake extending 10 miles in length and 2½ miles in width.

Within a day or two most administrators and many faculty members and students returned to the campus. As Dr. Francis J. Micheline stood in the Weckesser Hall parking lot, wearing hip boots and a hard-hat, a stranger would not have suspected, at first glance, that he was the President of Wilkes College. But, the faith, courage, and physical stamina, which he exhibited during those grim days, left little doubt as to his leadership. In an Administrative Council meeting held in the parking lot on muddied chairs, the decision was made to move forward, and the outline of "Operation Snapback" was set forth.

At that time no existing state or federal program provided disaster assistance to independent colleges. Within this framework,

COVER PHOTOS:

Before: Water damage to the gymnasium resulted in a series of five-foot waves of buckled flooring.

After: A newly laid hardwood floor makes athletic competition possible.



some personnel were assigned to physical clean-up operations, while others were assigned to provide for the resumption and completion of the Summer Session, and still others, the task of raising funds from alumni, corporate, and foundation sources. The community, historically the primary source of Wilkes' support, was so utterly crushed by the disaster that no immediate aid would be forthcoming from local friends.

Priority clean-up efforts were directed toward five designated classroom buildings. Within a week summer classes were resumed, largely in the second and third floor classrooms of these five buildings. Although curfew regulations restricted entrance to and exit from the City, remarkably 90% of the students returned to attend classes and complete their summer coursework.

The initial weeks passed quickly. When regular mail delivery resumed, gifts from alumni and friends began to appear more frequently.

Quietly, behind the scenes, Congressman Dan Flood, Senators Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker and special Presidential aide Frank Carlucci were working to amend the Disaster Relief Act to include disaster assistance for private as well as public institutions. Since this would take an act of Congress, already conscious of over-spending in an election year, little hope was offered for the success of the proposed amendment.

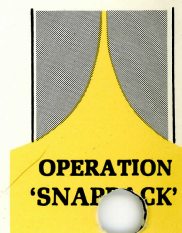
During these days, the administration, faculty, staff, and students continued to

"muck-out" each day. As they paused in their efforts of mud-slinging and debris-removal to eat "spam" sandwiches and drink bottled water provided by the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, two developments occurred which lifted the spirits of the College Family:

(1) The Western Electric Corporation sent representatives to the College and subsequently offered a \$50,000 grant as well as gifts of surplus scientific equipment from the Bell Laboratories. This gift was important not only because it provided much-needed finances for the massive cost of restoration, but also because it provided a psychological lift for the College and signaled the fact that a prestigious corporation which had visited the campus had faith that Wilkes would indeed "snapback."

(2) With the arrival of Company C of the 103rd Armor, Pennsylvania National Guard, from Ligonier and Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the physical restoration of the campus received a major boost. Wilkes College will always be indebted to these fine men.

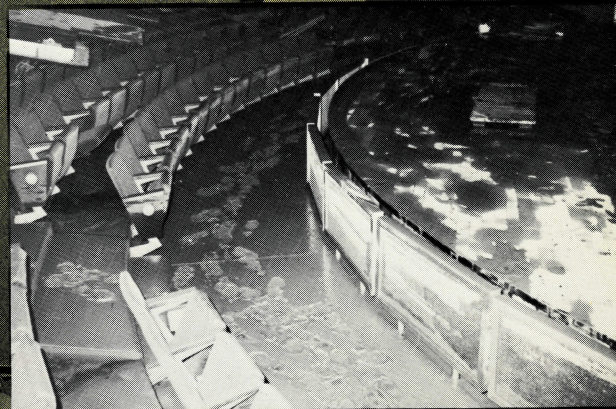
About this time the President and the Director of Development began to visit foundations and corporations, and the Director of Alumni Affairs began to meet with the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association to map campaign plans. During this period Congress amended the Disaster Relief Act to include private institutions and consequently, a team of federal officials arrived on campus. For the next several weeks, the Federal Liaison Officer, the Academic Dean, and the Business Manager assisted the federal team in a building-by-building assessment of damages.





Inset: The New Learning Center on South River Street faced the direct river currents, temporarily suspending construction.

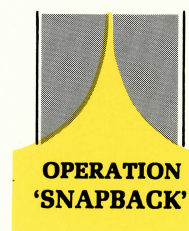
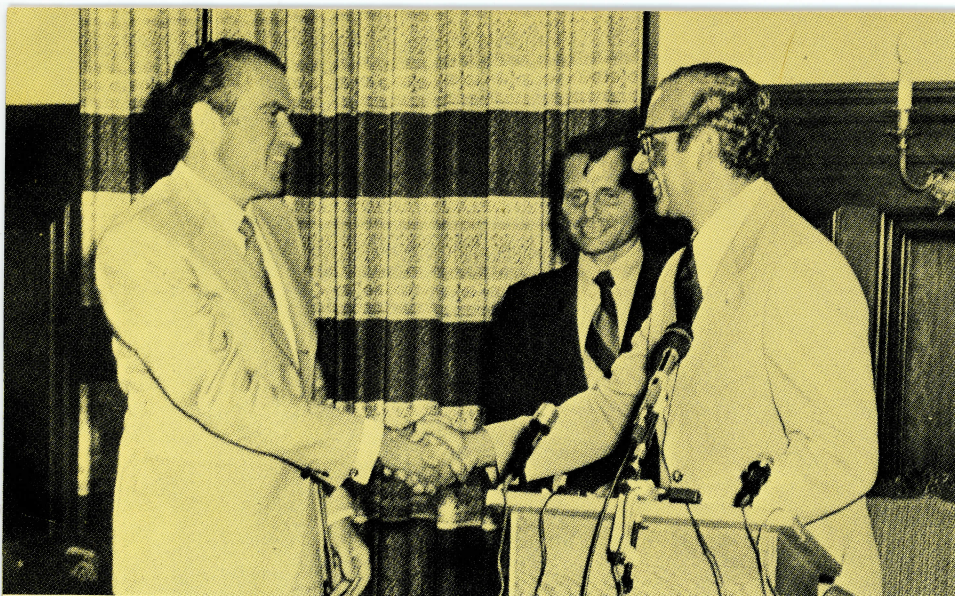
Construction on the Learning Center progresses at a rapid rate despite the brief period of construction delay.



Inset: Flood waters and mud covered half the seats and the stage area at the Center for the Performing Arts.

Temporary facilities make it possible to continue programs while permanent repairs are being made.





President Richard M. Nixon paid a surprise visit to the Wyoming Valley and Wilkes College on Saturday, September 9, presenting the college with a check for \$4-million. Mr. Nixon (left) presents the check to Wilkes President Francis J. Michelini as Frank Carlucci, area representative of the President, looks on.

On September 9, the Community and the College were honored by a surprise visit when President Nixon visited the campus. The President presented a \$4-million check to Dr. Michelini which represented an emergency advance on the forthcoming federal assistance.

Later that month, on September 25, the semester opened and the College welcomed the largest group of new students to enter Wilkes in its quarter-century history. Although over 800 of the full-time students who had pre-registered last Spring resided in the flood-affected area, enrollment fell by only 100. Hence, full-time enrollment for Fall 1972 was 2,479.

* The College recognized very early its responsibility to reach-out with the spirit of "Operation Snapback" to the citizens of the entire community. In October the College received a grant of \$50,000 from the Haas Community Fund, which is being used to finance the Wilkes Community Effort (WCE), a program of service to flood victims.

Although federal assistance will provide the bulk of the restoration cost, Wilkes College must raise \$2-million to cover areas of immediate need not funded by the legislation. These areas relate to the following:

**A. Replacement of library holdings:
\$250,000**

Federal funds will replace lost volumes; however, the extensive costs

of binding, handling, and cataloging must be borne by the College.

Conversion to microfilm is a more rapid, less costly and more efficient alternative, where such conversion is appropriate. The restoration will require additional support of approximately \$250,000.

B. Supplies : \$300,000

Federal assistance will replace only a one-month stock of chemical, janitorial, office, dormitory, dining hall, and academic supplies. Actual losses include a six-month supply of such items. Replacement costs will exceed the federal funds by about \$300,000.

C. Scholarships : \$350,000

Financial aid to students is a continuous need made greater by the flood's effect on an estimated 800 of our students' families. Governmental scholarships and loans to flood victims were increased for 1972-1973, but such aid will likely not be available for 1973-1974, while the need of our students who resided in the flood area will continue. Increased governmental aid to students creates an additional financial burden for the College, which is required to match most of these public funds with a stipulated percentage. To meet the continuing and greatly increased need for student aid, the College must raise \$350,000.

**D. Landscaping repair and replacement :
\$100,000**

Repair and replacement of shrubs, trees, and lawns, which help make the campus an attractive environment for students, is not provided for by the federal assistance. To restore this important characteristic the College must expend about \$100,000.

E. Continuing Need : \$1,000,000

A continuing need from the pre-flood era relates to securing funds to properly finance completion of the \$5.86-million Learning Resources Center presently under construction at the College. Three-million dollars had been raised and a \$1.9-million Federal Loan received before the flood to complete Phase I of the project. Phase II, the interior finishing of two floors and construction of the lecture hall, which has become more important to our academic programs in view of damage to other facilities on campus, will require additional funding of approximately \$1,000,000.

In our continuing efforts to restore Wilkes College, \$945,000 has been received or pledged as of December 31. We are especially grateful to those who have provided principal gifts to the College, gifts of at least \$100,000. These include the Gulf Oil Corporation, the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, and the Richard King Mellon Foundation. We also appreciate the support of those who have made major and supportive gifts. A listing of these friends appears below. We also appreciate the many other gifts of lesser value, but equal importance, from other friends of the College.

At this point in the academic year we recognize the great progress which has been made and we extend our gratitude to all those who have assisted the College. Nevertheless, we realize that the task of thorough rehabilitation, which we now face, will be long and arduous.

However, the events of the past six months lead us to believe that institutions can emerge from such a crisis stronger and better able to serve students and the community. We are confident that this will be true for Wilkes College.

WILKES COLLEGE FLOOD RELIEF FUND

I. Principal Gifts (\$100,000 or more)

Gulf Oil Corporation
Pennsylvania Power & Light Company
Richard King Mellon Foundation

II. Major Gifts (\$50,000-\$99,999)

Buhl Foundation
Crystal Trust
Arthur Vining Davis Foundation
Haas Community Fund
RCA Corporation
Western Electric Fund

III. Supportive Gifts (\$1,000-\$49,999)

Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Alcoa Foundation
Allstate Foundation
American Brands, Inc.
Arthur Andersen Company
Louis Calder Foundation
Mr. Donald F. Carpenter
Clark, Dodge & Company, Inc.
Commonwealth Telephone Company
E. I. duPont de Nemours & Company
Mrs. Richard Ehret
Equitable Life Assurance Society

Fisher Charitable Trust
Foundation for Independent Colleges
General Motors Corporation
Dr. Alan M. Glover
Haskins & Sells
Hewlett-Packard Company
Hillman Foundation
I.B.M. Corporation
I.N.A. Foundation
Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation
MacDonald Foundation
Mack Trucks, Inc.
Marywood College
Ostrander Steel Company, Inc.
Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company Foundation
Miss Edith Agnes Plumb
Price-Waterhouse & Company
Mr. Richard I. Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Royer
Sears, Roebuck & Company Foundation
Sigal's of Easton
Tektronix, Inc.
United States Steel Foundation
Westinghouse Educational Fund
Westminster Presbyterian Church



WILKES COLLEGE
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

