

Institute of Regional Affairs: Photos and newspaper clippings, ¹⁹⁷²1973 ¹⁷photo sleeves + ^{need}digitization]

Luzerne County

Fire and Rescue Training Association

June 22, 1973

Mr. Andrew Shaw Jr.
Director
Institute of Regional Affairs
Wilkes College
Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Dear Mr. Shaw Jr.

Enclosed is a picture of Concrete City the way it looked before it was abandoned in 1924. It might interest you to know a little more about it.

Concrete City, a fascination even in name, was originally erected in 1913 by the Glen Alden Coal Company for occupancy by families of minor officials and employees of Truesdale Colliery, which was located about a quarter of a mile away. The complex, comprised of twenty identical double block dwellings, formed an almost perfect square at the center of which were a playground and a wading pool.

When the unique development was completed in 1914, it was rapidly inhabited by forty families, members of which surely found their new residential complex years ahead of its time.

The environmental pride was relatively short lived, however, as the complex was abandoned in 1924 because of water and sewage problems that proved to be less than easily resolved.

Concrete City, the much envied and virtually indestructible community, was relegated to the limbo of disuse for the next fifty years, until its possibilities were recognized by the Luzerne County Fire and Rescue Training Association which was conducting training classes there. It was later acquired by the Institute of Regional Affairs at Wilkes College.

Sincerely

Louis F. Wempa, Director
Luzerne County Fire and
Rescue Training Association
34 W. Kirmar Ave.
Alden, Nanticoke, Pa. 18634









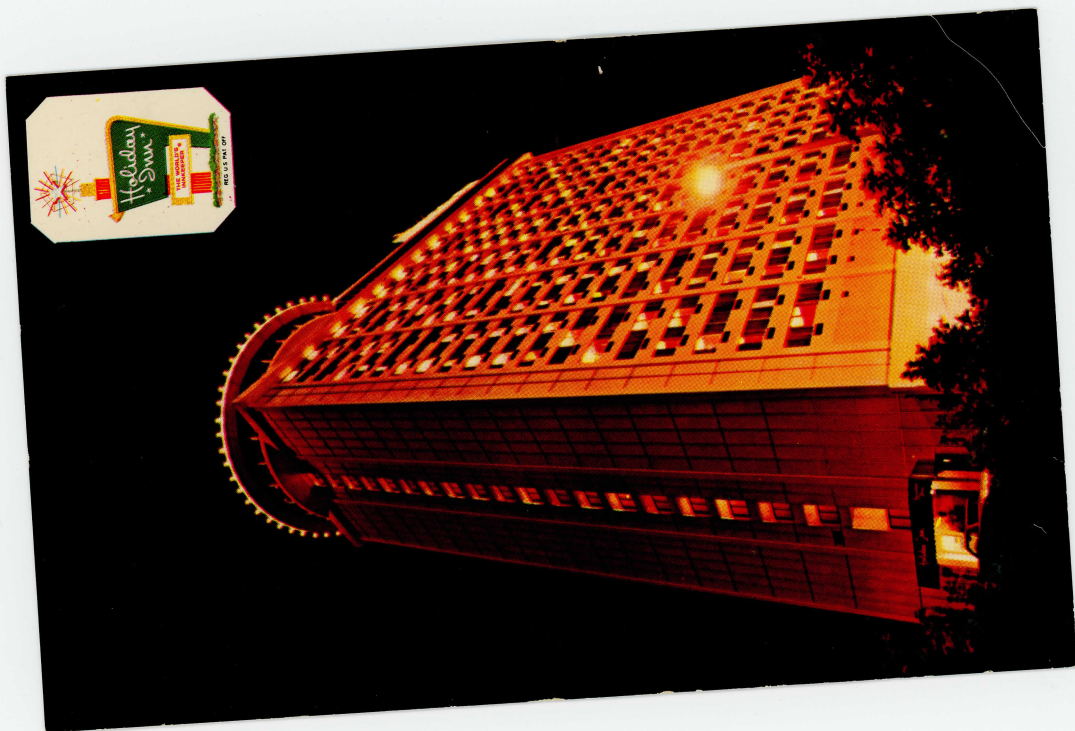
YOUNGEST U. S. MAYOR VISITS WILKES COLLEGE—The youngest mayor in the United States got his first look at Wilkes College this morning and the students in one political science class, as well as a good many other students in the dining hall, got their first look at Ron Hooker of Newcomerstown, Ohio.

Hooker arrived Sunday evening and stayed in the men's dormitory, and then was up early this morning to begin a day with the students. Monday evening, at 8, he will speak to an open gathering of students, faculty, alumni and townspeople in the Center for the Performing Arts. The Concert and Lecture Series program is open to the public.

One of his first official stops Monday morning was in a political science class being conducted by Prof. Walter Niehoff.

Just prior to that, he was officially welcomed to the college. Shown at the welcoming affair, left to right, were: Lee Auerbach, social chairman of the Student Government; Mayor Hooker; Dr. Donald W. Tappa, dean of academic affairs, who welcomed the guest in the absence of President Francis J. Michelini; and Prof. Niehoff.

(Photo by Ace Hoffman)





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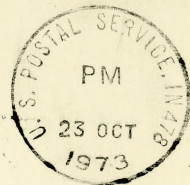
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Janet Wajmonskey
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Box 818
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, Ind. 47809



Oct. 20, 1973

Hi Everyone,

I am sorry it has taken me so long to write but grad school is not like my care-free days at Wilkes. I hope that everyone at the Institute is fine and is working as hard as ever.

Things out here are o.k. if you like a lot of work, a lot of criticism, and a minimum of play. Actually, I enjoy my classes or at least I am trying to convince myself I do.

I also love teaching. Some days the kids really give me a hassle but most

of the time they are really funny. I will tell you some of the stories when I see you people again.

As for the mid west, if you think Whidkes Barre is behind the times you haven't seen Terre Haute. The other Sunday I went to buy the New York Times & they told me they didn't have any.

It doesn't get to Terre Haute until Mon. but if I wanted I could buy last week's. The major excitement in town this month was when the fire company turned on all the fire hydrants and flooded the streets.

I haven't sent you any paw paws because I have seen neither a paw paw or a paw paw patch. I am seriously beginning to doubt their existence. They do, however, have the best corn on the cob I have ever tasted.

Well I had better end this letter so that I don't take you away from your work longer than it is necessary.

I hope everyone is having a good year. I watch for Mrs. Shaw on the Today Show every morning. I hope Porthy is driving to work every day & that Mary keeps her light bill paid. Did Mr. Tuby grow back his beard? How is Mrs. McDonald?

How are all the Kids, are
Vernon & Carol still in Med
Tech or have they decided on
a worthwhile profession yet.
Are Debbie & Charlotte behaving?
What did Nancy think of
Billy Jean King? etc etc, etc.

Well, hope to see you
soon. Take care

Janet



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High-rise dormitories overlook the 60-acre mid-town campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. Founded in 1870, Indiana State University is a multi-purpose university with rapidly expanding academic and physical facilities.

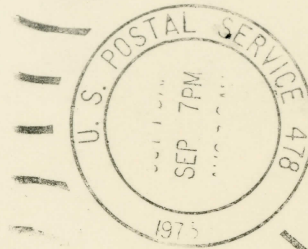
Greetings Everyone,

I thought that I would send this card so that you could catalogue it under "places not to visit." Really Terre Haute isn't that bad. School is pretty hard & ~~to~~ make things even more difficult they gave me a teaching assistantship. I have to teach 3 Psy 101 classes. I never realized what it was like to be in front of a class but I am slowly realizing. Will write when I have time & tell you the details. Take care
Loret

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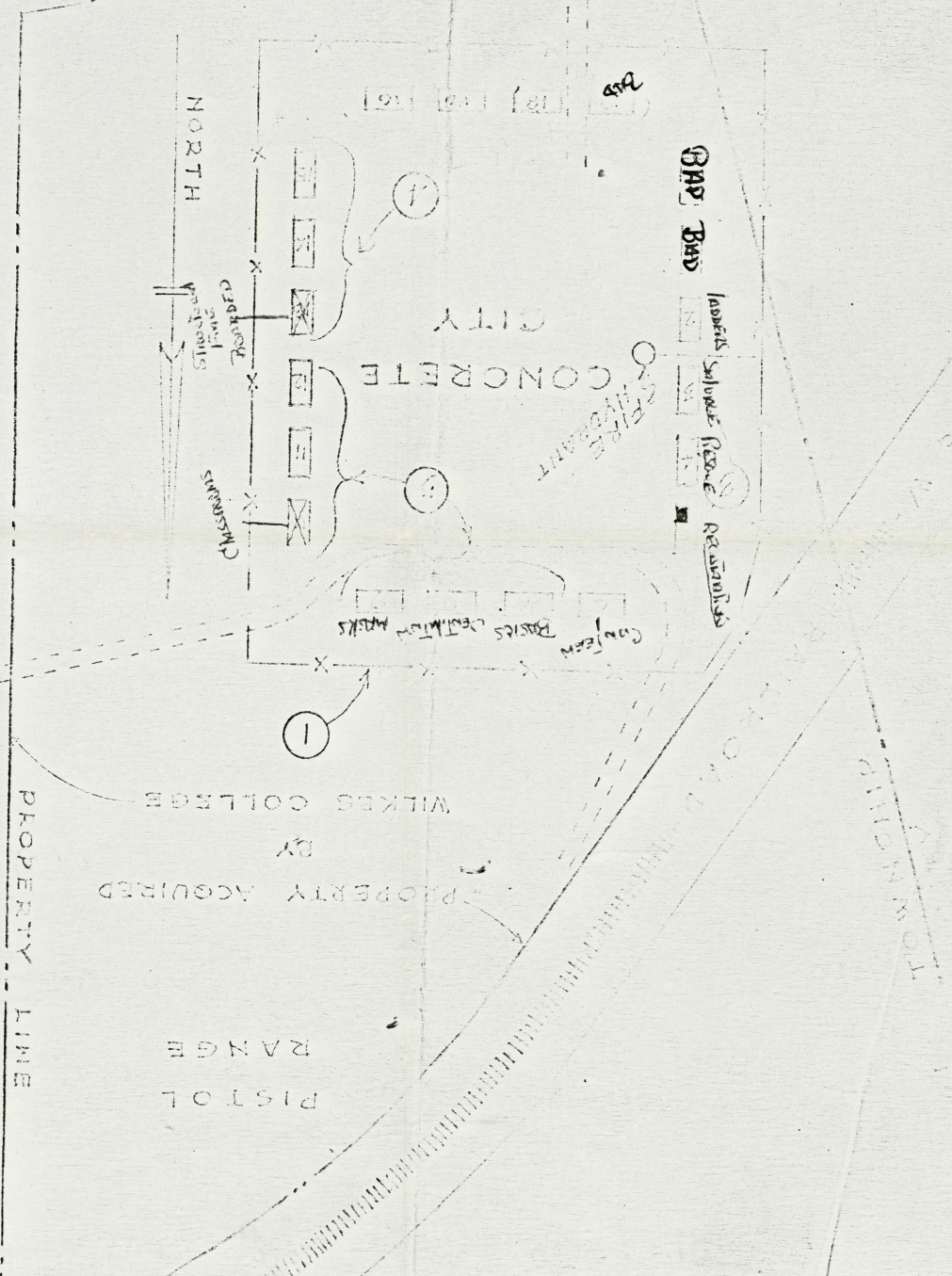


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Mr Shaw

ed out of the market

Minimum wage hurts jobless

By JOHN D. LOFTON JR.

WASHINGTON — Simultaneous with reports that we may be facing another "long, hot summer" in the inner cities because of increased unemployment, especially among teenagers, comes the news out of Bal Harbour, Fla., that the AFL-CIO is demanding that Congress pass legislation the effect of which would be to decrease employment in

the inner cities, especially among teenagers. The irony is excruciating.

In its call for Congress to pass a \$3-an-hour minimum wage bill, the AFL-CIO's executive council declared that such action is necessary to guarantee "a minimum standard of living necessary to health efficiency and general well-being of all workers."

Terrific. But what about the well-being of those individuals looking for

jobs? If George Meany gets his pay hike - as he most certainly will - a lot of nonworkers will never become workers because certain jobs will have been priced out of the market.

This sort of talk enrages union leaders and their supporters, but the evidence is overwhelming: Increases in the minimum wage do have an adverse impact on employment.

Charles T. Stewart Jr., a professor of economics at George Washington University, tells me that he has no doubt that if there were a lower minimum wage for teenagers, "there would be tens of thousands of more jobs available than there are now." Stewart is the co-author of "Employment Effects of the Minimum Wage Rates," which concludes:

"Minimum wage rates produce gains for some groups of workers at the expense of others, with the adverse employment effects greatest among workers who are the most disadvantaged in terms of marketable skills or location."

Stewart's study also found that minimum wage laws work against depressed areas, especially the South, and regions like Appalachia, and that teenagers, nonwhites and women tend to lose their jobs in low-wage industries. They are then forced into less well-paying, noncovered industries that already have a surplus of workers.

A colleague of Professor Stewart's, Associate Economics Prof. Bob Goldfarb, told me that "in the more sophisticated studies it is clear that there is a correlation between decreasing employment and a higher minimum wage."

Rather than listen to George Meany and Company, Congress would be wise to heed the advice of James Tobin, a former member of the Economic Council of Advisers under President Kennedy, who has written:

"People who lack the capacity to earn a decent living should be helped, but they will not be by minimum-wage laws, trade union pressures or other devices which seek to compel employers to pay more than their work is worth. The likely outcome of such regulations is that the intended beneficiaries are not employed at all."

Better yet, since we know that minimum-wage laws definitely make unemployment higher for some groups, why not repeal all of them?

