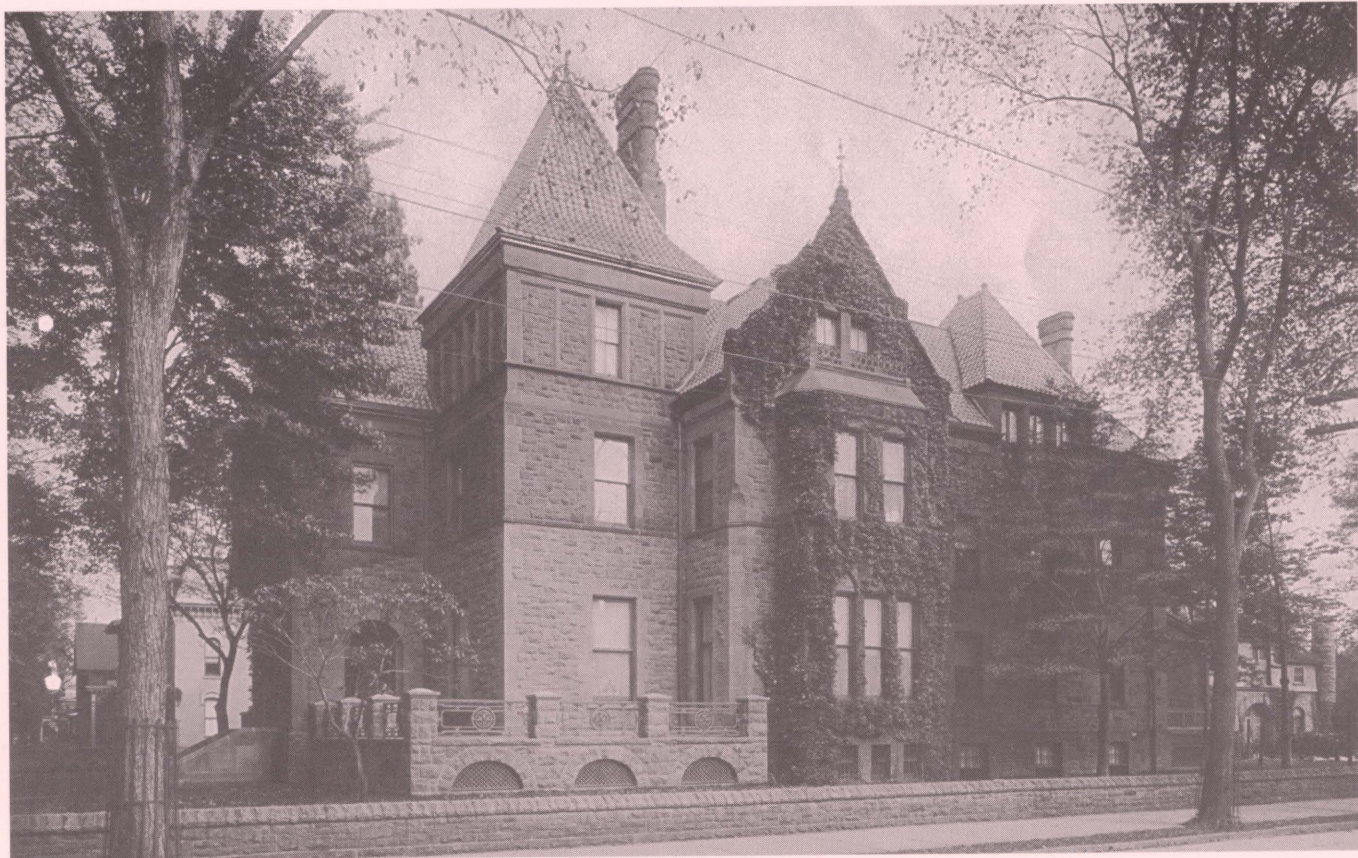
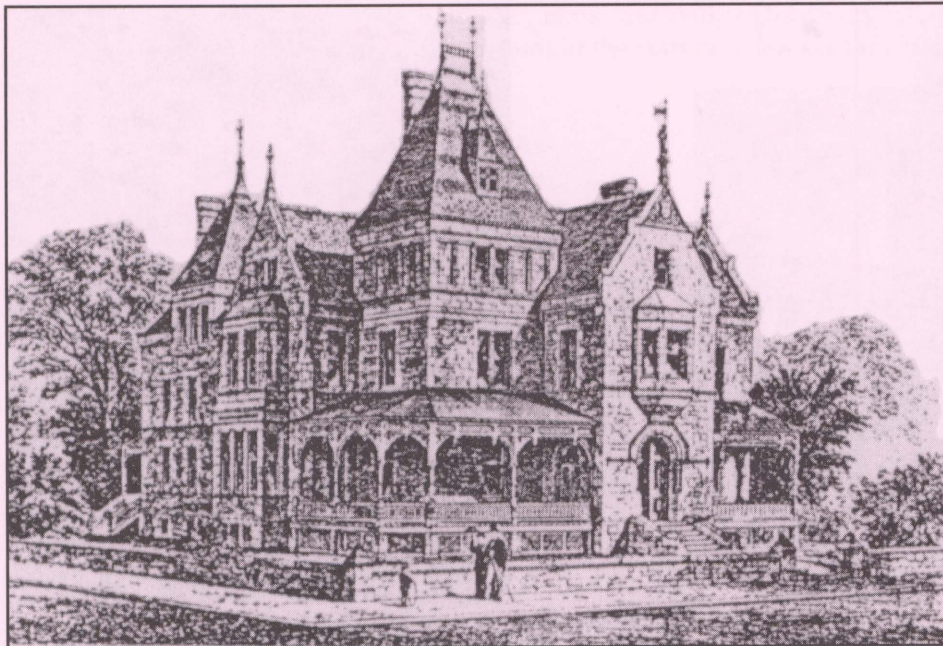


Kirby Hall



Wilkes University

202 SOUTH RIVER STREET
WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA



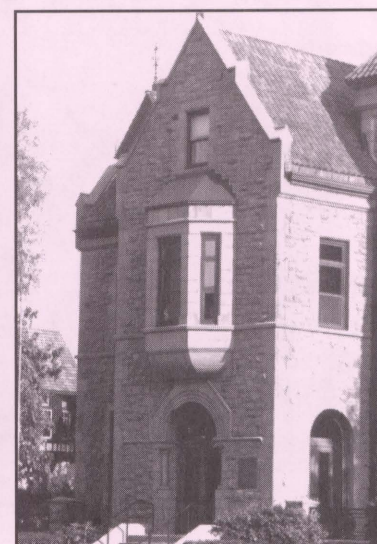
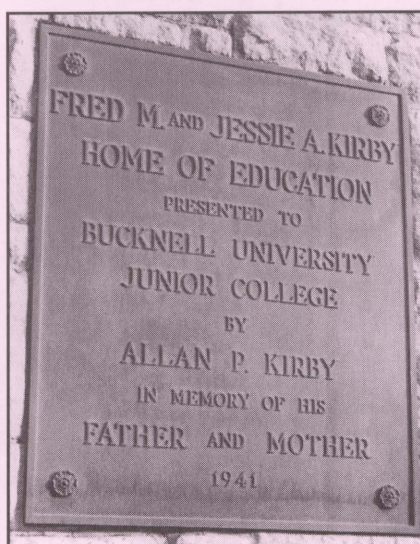
Kirby Hall, designed by the famous architect, Frederick Clarke Withers, is an example of High Victorian Gothic architecture. Built in 1873, Withers considered this mansion to be one of his important works for it is included in his 1877 promotional pamphlet, *Buildings of F. C. Withers*. Its pointed arches, decorated chimneys, heavy bay window over the entrance and use of rough Wyoming bluestone create a most dramatic entrance façade. Called a "Villa", it was featured in the December 1876 *Architectural Digest* as a landmark masterpiece.

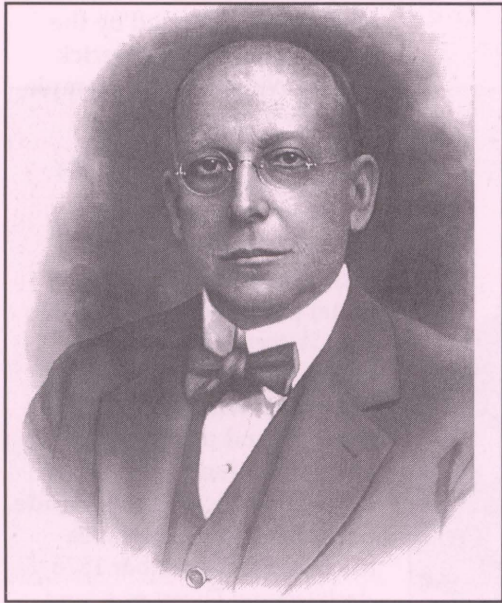
Although the following pages highlight Wilkes University's Kirby Hall, former home of Fred Morgan and Jessie Amelia Kirby, the story of a house is not complete without telling about the people who lived therein, for it is those people who give a house its soul.

It seems appropriate that the site of Mr. Kirby's handsome residence was the # 1 lot on Wilkes-Barre's original 1770 Town Plan. In a way, its history parallels that of this Valley's development: from Indian campsites to Jabez Sill's simple log cabin; from its second house where the area's first marriage took place in 1769, between Wyoming Massacre hero Nathan Denison and Elizabeth Sill; on to the early 1800's large frame home of Judge Roswell Welles, State Legislator and one of the first attorneys admitted to the new Luzerne County Bar. (He was a Pennamite sympathizer who stipulated that no Connecticut Yankee could claim his land). It held less prestigious occupants, including a lumberyard, until 1873 when Stephen Thurlow commissioned the stunning building we have today.

In 1880 J. Frank Lee paid \$40,000 for the home. In 1886 Reuben Flick purchased it for \$42,500 and sold it to Mr. Kirby in 1905 for \$55,000. Following F.M. Kirby's death in 1940 his son, Allan, gave it to Bucknell University Junior College (now Wilkes) as the "Fred M. and Jessie A. Kirby Home for Education."

A sumptuous residence then became the college's richly housed library. President and Mrs. Eugene Farley lived in its third floor for several years. Students, most of whom had never been inside such an elegant structure, were treated to its awe-inspiring interior along with classroom learning in its gracious rooms. As well, the spacious Carriage House, since removed for campus expansion, became a desperately needed Student Center and cafeteria. Kirby Hall continues to fulfill its mission as the University's Department of Language and Literature where faculty and staff work within stunning surroundings. It remains, literally, a "HOME" for Education.





Fred Morgan Kirby
1861-1940

Married
May 27, 1886



Jessie Amelia Kirby
1861-1933

It is interesting to note that from modest living quarters on Lincoln Street in the city's Heights section, Mr. Kirby moved to 64 W. River Street where he had a Queen Anne frame home built for his family in the late 1890's. By 1905 his fortunes had improved again and he purchased this magnificent mansion from Stephen Leonard Thurlow, a wealthy local merchant. By 1910 Mr. Kirby had replaced the wrap-around porches seen in the picture on the previous page, for today's unroofed stone terraces and iron railings.

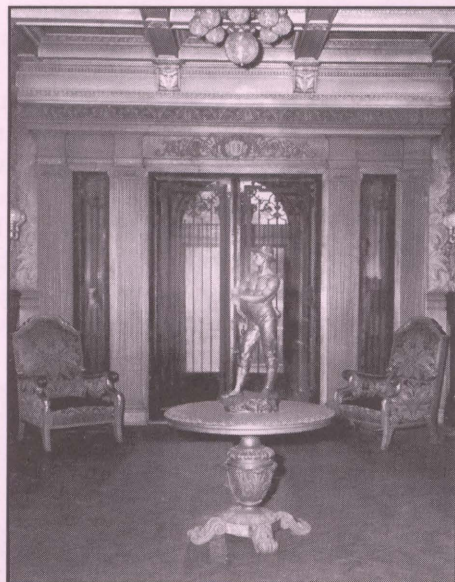


Another Kirby home deserves mention here. For several years, the Kirby family had summered in Glen Summit Springs and in 1914-15 their palatial stone house was erected in the midst of eleven acres at the top of the mountain there. "Greystone Terrace" included a tennis court, pool, stables and exquisite Japanese Gardens.

Kirby Hall is certainly rich in the heritage of its ancestry, but it also serves as a prestigious legacy of Wilkes-Barre's heyday. Imposing and replete with architectural details of prime craftsmanship, this gracious mansion of 21 major rooms preserves a certain residential ambience, an essence of the past, which, in the words of a former student . . . "caress my eyes each time I pass." It earned early placement on the National Register of Historic Places and continues to stand out as a stately gem within the framework of treasures on the university campus and Wilkes-Barre's "River Street Historic District."

With grateful thanks to Kirby Family Foundations, and Wilkes University Trustee, Allan Kirby, for his major personal contributions, Kirby Hall now stands at the start of a new century, in superb restored condition.

Wilkes University is proud to announce to its Kirby family benefactors and to its own wide constituency that the recent renovation/restoration of Kirby Hall has earned the WilkesBarre Chamber of Commerce 2000 Pride of Place Award. The building represents both an investment in mindpower (critical for the health of the area) and an elegant reminder of the region's historic past. As well, the restored rooms will increase the public's understanding of the Kirby family's place in the progress and enrichment of Wyoming Valley.



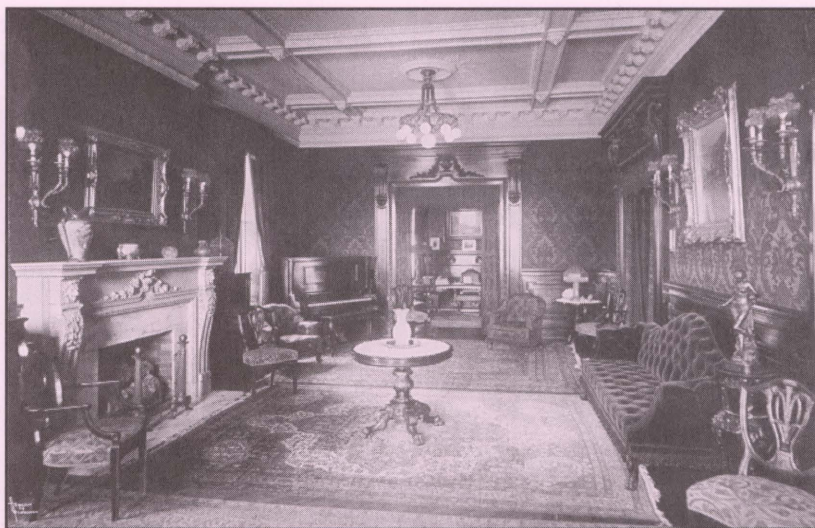
The principal rooms are arranged along the sides of the Central Hall. One first enters through the stunning marble-tiled foyer with its magnificent ironwork chandelier and wrought iron doorway, seen at the far end of the entrance hall (above) as renovated today, and behind the statue in the original hall, shown at the left.



Although few changes were made from the original blueprints, the staircase pictured to the left had first called for two sets of steps leading from each side of the landing to the second floor. Upon Wilkes' acquisition, this Reception Hall was covered in scarlet brocade. The landing shows flocked velvet wall covering and gas light fixtures. Eugene Farley, first president of Wilkes, is shown inspecting the building at the time of the Kirby gift in 1941.



The large Salon, to the left of the entrance, was used for formal occasions. Now it has become a special scene for educational gatherings, English departmental celebrations, poetry readings, and use by various community groups.



The stunning Dining Room, opened to both the front Morning Room and, of course, the kitchen/pantries in the rear. Exquisite scenic paintings above the wainscoting around the walls were done in the early 1870's by a Frenchwoman, Mlle. Juliette Gambarro. They have been cleaned, adding beauty, interest and warmth to what is now Wilkes' Seminar Room.



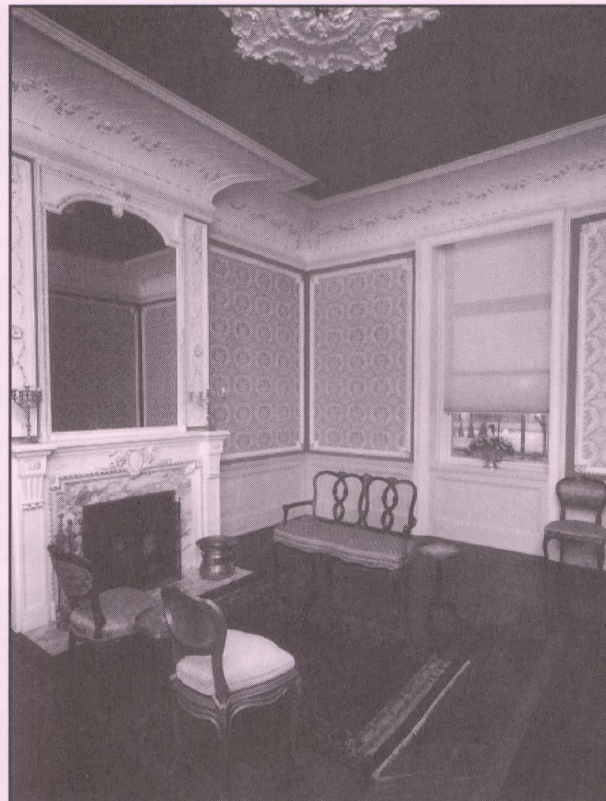
Before Ann Kirby Kirby's death in 1996, she was most involved in the refurbishment of this particular room. Her Virginia family has made special donations to it, in her memory and in tribute to the legacy of her grandparents.



As one walks through Kirby Hall, it will be apparent that much of the grandeur of the Kirby's occupancy remains for us to savor and enjoy today. Photographs of the mansion's interior, taken in 1925, depict formal richly-embellished furnishings and décor similar to those shown in the Living and Dining Room, opposite, and the Library, below.

A friend of Mrs. Kirby's might have had tea with her in the Reception Room, called a Morning Room in houses of this size. It is situated in the southwest corner, directly right of the entrance.

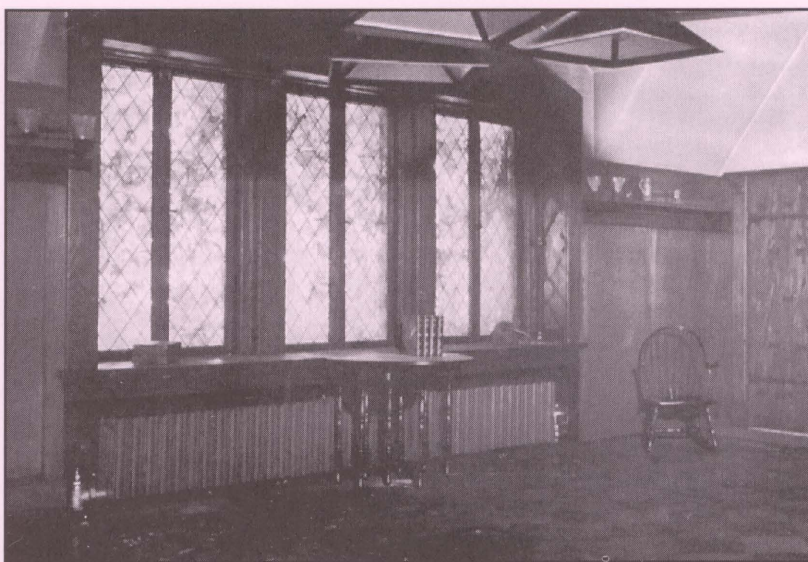
Grace Jessie Kirby Culbertson has warm memories of being with her grandparents in this room and she has been especially interested in and financially generous to its renovation, as a memorial to them.



A comfortable library was situated in the northeast corner, opening from the Salon as well as from the hallway. It was probably a favorite family gathering place. Because of the Kirby's close connection with Lafayette College, the original library was moved there many years ago.



Of course, an imposing home such as Kirby Hall has many large, former bedrooms, dressing rooms, baths, storage and closet areas, on its second floor. As befitted such a stately house, the servants' quarters were commodious, located on the 3rd floor and reached from their own dining room by way of the back stairs. The chauffeur and gardeners had their rooms over the Carriage House. As well, there was a Billiard/Game Room (pictured here) and the wine cellar with its terra cotta racks, had a fine reputation. The interior architectural details are still noteworthy ... mahogany and cherry floors, exquisite woodwork, Italian marble fireplaces which remain as decorative centerpieces in the seven rooms they embellish.



The rise of the Kirby empire is well documented in countless state, national and international histories. Throughout this epic tale of hard-won, brilliant success an unique phenomenon existed. The Wyoming Valley people seemed to share a proprietary feeling for the Kirbys and basked in that success along with the rest of the world! They considered this remarkable family as their own. Possibly, such wholesale pride stems from F.M. Kirby's strong desire to "give back" to his beloved community. He believed he should return his good fortune to the populace who had supported his life and entrepreneurial career.

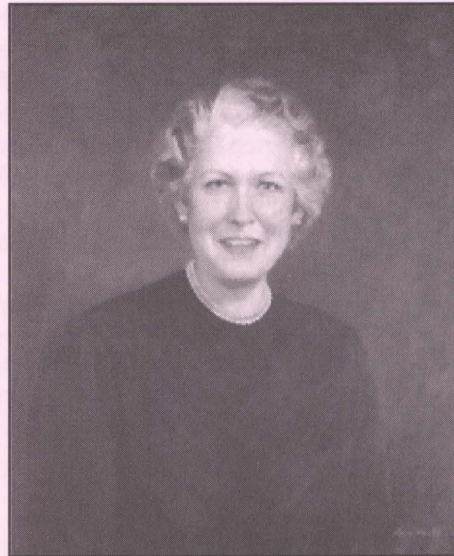
As we enter the 21st Century, his descendants continue Mr. Kirby's legacy of sharing family prosperity by way of civic, humanitarian and philanthropic gifts and the community continues to feel pride as well as appreciation for the Kirby deeds:

In daily conversations: Wilkes-Barreans tell of help received at **The Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Health Center**; **Wyoming Seminary** students in Kingston laud their **Kirby Library**; mothers with gangs of kids grin with relief as they enter **Kirby Park** on a hot summer day; compliments flow as fun and culture is absorbed in **The Kirby Center for Performing Arts**; **The Allan Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship**, located on the Wilkes campus, instructs students and the public alike in a uniquely rare endeavor; Mountaintop school teachers remind each other of the excellent resources at **The Marian Sutherland Kirby Library**; **St. Stephen's Church** worshipers give thanks for invaluable Kirby support; widely diverse groups meeting at **The Kirby Episcopal House** in Glen Summit speak with grateful awe about that wonderful center; and then there is **Wilkes' Kirby Hall** which draws admiration from thousands of young and old who enter its beautiful portal each year.

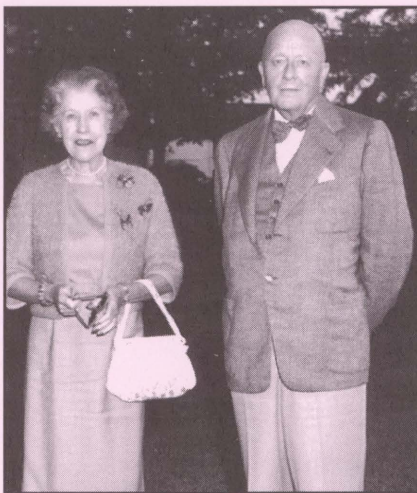


Allan Price Kirby
1892-1973

Married
February 14, 1918



Marian Sutherland Kirby
1892-1980



We are aware of F.M. Kirby's ties with the Woolworths and their revolutionary approach to merchandising which spearheaded one of the major commercial enterprises in the country. We enjoy knowing that "our" American mercantile legend, in spite of worldwide business associates and membership in the most elite social and civic clubs in the east, remained a humble, modest gentleman. And, as the area's greatest benefactor, it is endearing to hear about his "first desk", an old crate he kept for decades, and to follow the amazing growth of the Kirby "Five and Dimes" to almost 100 stores by 1912. As well, it is noteworthy to realize that Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Kirby's son, Allan, continued the altruistic traditions of support for Wyoming Valley that was set by his father during the early part of the last century.

Allan Price was the Kirby's second son. Harold, born 1888, died as a baby. Sumner, born 1895, died in Europe during World War II. Allan inherited his father's determination, genius, and ability, following his path in the business world. He gained experience in several roles and founded the large-scale Kirby-Davis Chrysler dealership in 1920. Allan later served as Chairman of the Allegheny Corporation which took control of the New York Central Railroad in 1954. One of his many civic and well-considered philanthropies was the gift of this sorely needed house to the city's first school of higher education ... Wilkes University's predecessor, Bucknell University Junior College on December 5, 1941, two days before Pearl Harbor.

And somehow, although a practical, well-used college classroom and office building, Kirby Hall retains the warmth and special personality of the persons who lived within its walls. The complete makeover of this treasured building's interior finishes and installation of new electrical, mechanical and plumbing infrastructures was made possible through the generosity of the Kirby Family Foundations. "More elegant and majestic than most, with a sense of heritage and an aura of importance surrounding it," Kirby Hall 2000 continues to provide inspiration for those who learn here.

Remarkable as was the founder of the Kirby retailing dynasty, followed by his son Allan's business acumen and subsequent fortunes, it is perhaps equally unique that their family has chosen to follow the guidelines and honor the precepts so well set. These descendants continue with creativity and astute leadership to enrich the world by way of diverse, far-sighted business interests, critical ventures and far-sighted philanthropy.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan P. Kirby's children and grandchildren are listed below:

Grace Jessie Kirby (1918-) and John Culbertson

Marian Grace Culbertson (February 7, 1945-)

Katharine Kirby Culbertson (September 1, 1947-)

John Harrison Culbertson, Jr. (July 23, 1951-)



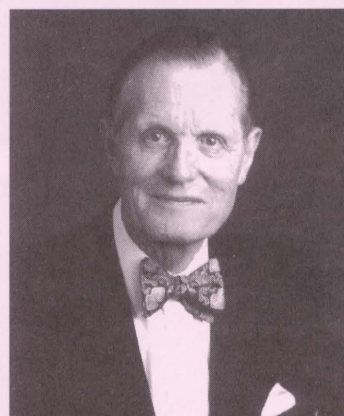
Fred Morgan Kirby II (1919-) and Walker Dillard

Alice Kirby Horton (December 15, 1950-)

Fred M. Kirby III (January 15, 1953-)

S. Dillard Kirby (September 24, 1959-)

Jefferson Walker Kirby (December 12, 1961-)



Ann Sutherland Kirby (1928-1996) and Lewis Kirby

Wade Howard Osborne Kirby (September 23, 1957-)

Annette Kirby (January 7, 1961-)

Roger Hilderson Wigg Kirby (October 18, 1965-)



Allan Price Kirby (1931-)

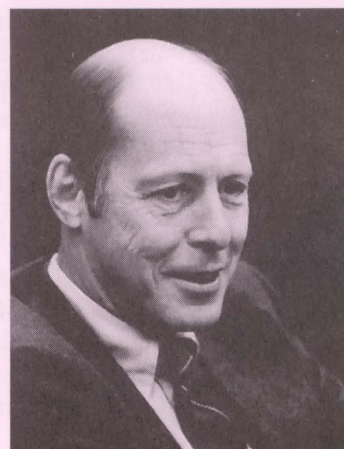
Jessie Ann Kirby Lee (June 18, 1954-)

Allan Price Kirby III (April 22, 1956-)

Slater Baran Kirby (March 30, 1959-)

Coray Sutherland Kirby (November 15, 1961-)

Milan Stanton Kirby (December 22, 1963-)

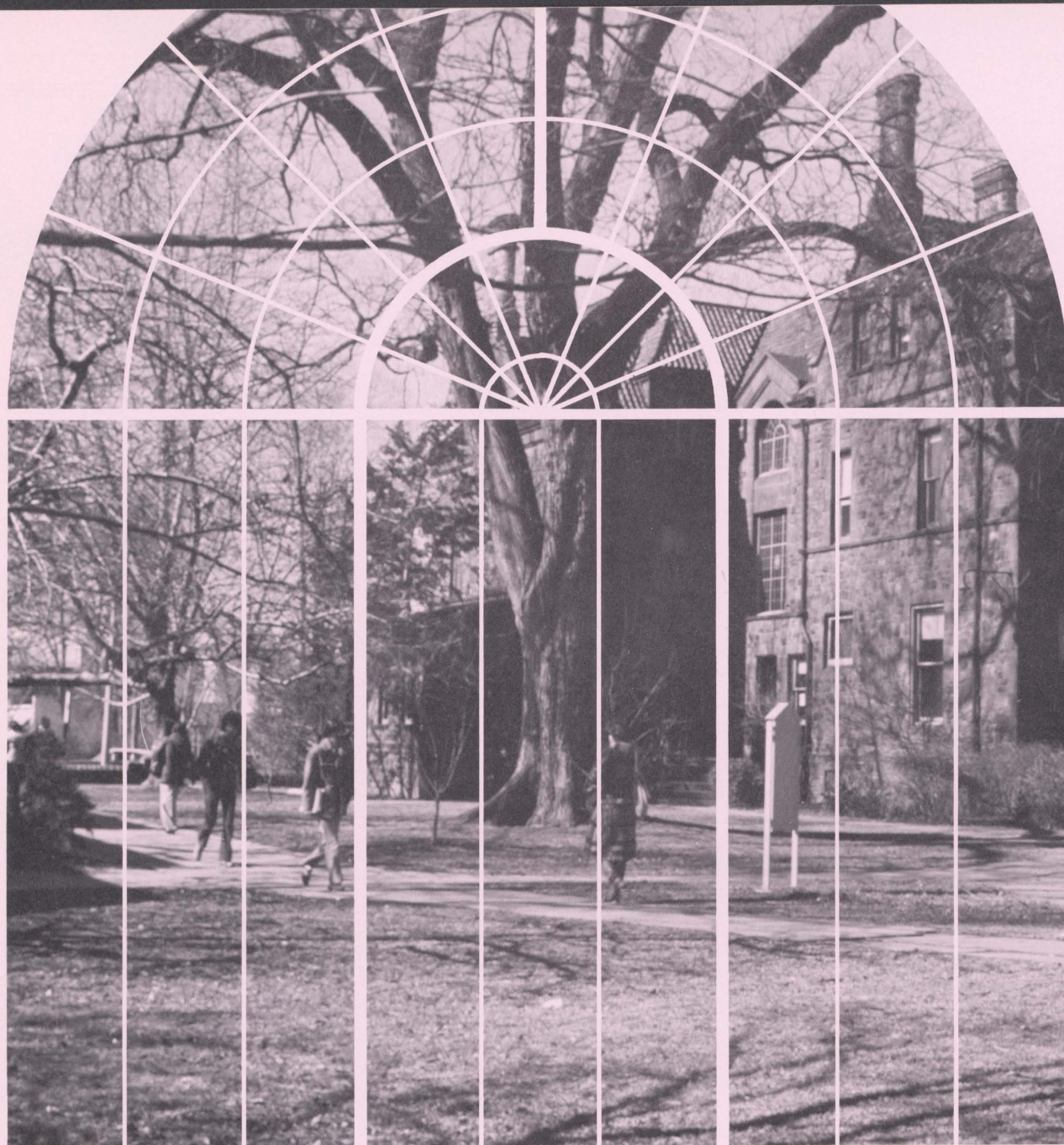




Kirby

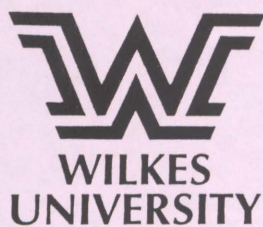
Facta non verba

"DEEDS NOT WORDS" heralds the Kirby family crest (above), a most fitting phrase, for their generous, thoughtful deeds will long outweigh and outlast the voluminous accolades written about Fred Morgan Kirby and his outstanding family.



*An Educated Man
seeks truth, for
without truth there
can be no
understanding.*





P.O. Box 111
Wilkes-Barre,
Pennsylvania 18766
(570) 408-5000
1-800-WILKES-U

June 2001

Dear Friends of Wilkes University:

As one of my last acts as president of Wilkes University, I am delighted to share with you the enclosed booklet on Kirby Hall, one of the architectural treasures both of the University and of the Wyoming Valley.

Written by Betsy Bell Condron and prepared for publication by Professor Harold Cox for the Wilkes University Press, the booklet tells the story of the house and of the family who lived in it, "for it is those people who give a house its soul."

Celebrating the complete renovation of the home of Fred Morgan and Jessie Amelia Kirby, made possible by the generosity of their grandchildren, the story we are presenting weaves together the architectural and the familial. Built in 1873, Kirby Hall is the centerpiece of Wilkes's beautiful urban campus and one of the most imposing structures in the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania Historic District.

We hope you will visit the renewed Kirby Hall and marvel at its beauty and be inspired by the deeds of the family that made it a home. We also hope that you will celebrate, as we do, Allan P. Kirby, Sr.'s gift of the "Kirby Home of Education" to then Bucknell University Junior College, on December 5, 1941. A vast majority of the more than 22,000 alumni of BUJC and its successors, Wilkes College and Wilkes University, have enjoyed the elegant ambiance of Kirby Hall over the last six decades. By the generous gifts of Kirby grandchildren, the home has been secured for another sixty years.

Sincerely,

Christopher N. Breiseth
President Emeritus

TIMELINE OF KIRBY HALL

- 1765 (approx) A log cabin is erected by the owner of the property, Jabez Sill.
Site is listed as lot # 1 in original town plan.
- 1769 First marriage in Wyoming Valley takes place in Sill cabin.
- 1810 (approx) Property is sold to Roswell Welles for 200 pounds.
House is erected.
- 1831 Judge Welles dies. Property is sold.
- 1831-1872 Property passes through several ownerships.
- 1872 Lot is acquired by Stephen Thurlow Family.
- 1873-74 Present structure is designed by Architect Frederick Withers
and erected.
- 1875 Thurlow Family occupies house.
- 1880 House is sold to J. Frank Lee for \$40,000.00.
- 1886 Lee sells house to Reuben J. Flick for \$42,500.00.
- 1905 Flick sells house to F.M. Kirby for \$55,100.00.
- 1940 F.M. Kirby dies. House is donated to Bucknell University Junior
College by son Allan.
- 1940-1968 House is used as art center, library, classroom building, and
President's residence.
- 1969-present House is occupied by Foreign Language and English Departments,
now only English Department.

HISTORY



History ^{CV 5-15-06}

Wilkes University's downtown campus is home to many of the city's oldest and most historic structures. Learn the back stories of some of these majestic buildings.

Page 4

A historical marker records the site where George Catlin, who first brought photography to the United States, lived at 101 S. River St., which was named for the famous painter.

Wilkes University's downtown campus is home to many of the city's oldest and most historic structures. Learn the back stories of some of these majestic buildings.

by David Wright

WILKES UNIVERSITY'S downtown campus is home to many of the city's oldest and most historic structures. Learn the back stories of some of these majestic buildings.

One of the most prominent buildings on campus is Wilkes Hall, which was built in 1871. It is a three-story brick building with a central tower and arched windows.

The building is now home to Wilkes University's main office. It was designed by Frederick Wilkes, one of the most prominent architects in the country at the time, and the Herald Co. Wilkes designed many other buildings in the city, including the Wilkes Hall.

One of the Wilkes Hall's most notable features is the "fountain" which is a large, ornate, and highly decorative structure. It is a masterpiece of Wilkes' design and is a landmark of the city.

Wilkes Hall is a three-story brick building with a central tower and arched windows. It was built in 1871 and is now home to Wilkes University's main office.

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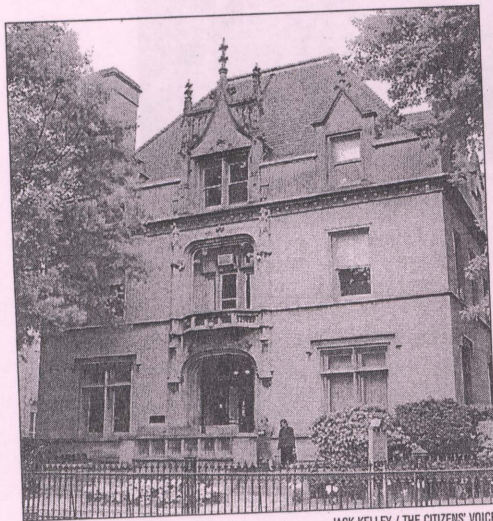
Wilkes Hall is a three-story brick building with a central tower and arched windows. It was built in 1871 and is now home to Wilkes University's main office.

HISTORY COURSE

Wilkes University is home to many elaborate and historic mansions



A historical marker recalls the art career of George Catlin, the first American painter to create portraits of Native Americans. Catlin Hall, located at 92 S. River St., was named for the famous painter.



JACK KELLEY / THE CITIZENS' VOICE

Weckesser Hall, at 170 S. Franklin St., is known by some as the 'castle.' One of the largest mansions in the neighborhood, F.M. Woolworth Co. director Frederick J. Weckesser lived there.

By Denise Allabaugh
Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE — Stately mansions which adorn Wilkes University's historic 27-acre campus once were the homes of well-known, successful people.

One of the most elaborate buildings on campus is Kirby Hall at 202 S. River Street, built in 1872. Fred Morgan Kirby, five and dime store magnate and grand scale philanthropist, lived in the home.

The mansion is now home to Wilkes University's humanities division. It was designed by Frederick Withers, one of the most prominent architects in the country at the time, said Dr. Harold Cox, Wilkes University history professor and archivist. A historic marker is located in front of the building.

Some call Weckesser Hall at 170 S. Franklin St. the "castle" since it is one of the largest former mansions in the historic neighborhood. F.W. Woolworth Co. director Frederick J. Weckesser lived in the grand home, built between 1914 and 1916. Costing \$200,000 to construct, it is the most expensive

THIS IS THE NINTH in a series on historic places in Wilkes-Barre to commemorate the city's bicentennial.

house ever built in Wilkes-Barre, Cox said. New York architect C.H.P. Gilbert designed the mansion. Gilbert's earlier work included a similar Fifth Avenue mansion for F.W. Woolworth himself. Today, Weckesser Hall is Wilkes University's administration building.

Kirby Hall and Weckesser Hall are two of many historic buildings which are part of the River Street Historic District, accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The enormous Gothic mansion at 80-84 S. River St., now called Rifkin Hall, was owned by Col. Robert Bruce Ricketts, a Battle of Gettysburg hero and lumber baron who donated Ricketts Glen State Park to the people of Pennsylvania. In 1989, Arnold and Sandy Rifkin made their first apartment on the third floor. The mansion, constructed in 1873, is now a residence hall.

The mansion-style Catlin



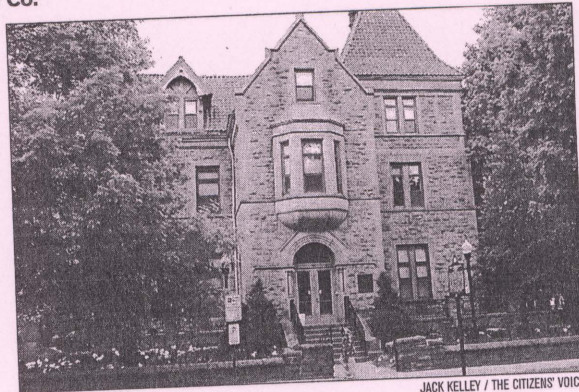
JACK KELLEY / THE CITIZENS' VOICE

Chase Hall, located at 184 S. River St., serves as the university's admissions office. It was built in 1918 for the president and manager of the Lehigh Coal Co.



JACK KELLEY / THE CITIZENS' VOICE

The gothic mansion at 80-84 S. River St., now known as Rifkin Hall, was owned by Col. Bruce Ricketts. He later donated the land which would become Ricketts Glen State Park.



JACK KELLEY / THE CITIZENS' VOICE

Kirby Hall, 202 S. River St., was built in 1872. Philanthropist Fred Morgan Kirby lived in the building that now houses the university's humanities division.

Hall at 92 S. River St., another residence hall, is named after George Catlin, the first American painter to create portraits of Native Americans. It was originally built in 1843 as merchant Elijah W. Reynolds' home. Wilkes renamed the home in honor of Catlin (1796-1872), who was a lawyer in Luzerne County for four years before becoming a painter.

Catlin traveled the United States and visited 50 Native American tribes. He created more than 500 oil paintings, which have been featured in museums around the world, including the Louvre and the Smithsonian. A historic marker honoring Catlin can be found at River and South streets.

The two-and-one-half story Tudor Revival Chase Hall at

184 S. River St. was built in 1918 for Frederick Chase, who was president and manager of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. Chase Hall is now the admissions office. It was donated to Wilkes in 1937 by Admiral Harold Stark as a memorial to Mrs. Frederick Chase, Stark's sister.

The oldest building on campus is McClintock Hall at 44 S. River St., built in 1841, Cox said. Now a residence hall, McClintock Hall features a grand piano, floor-to-ceiling mirrors and a three-paned stained-glass inlay in the ceiling.

Standing tall in the middle of Wilkes University's campus is an eight-foot-high statue of John Wilkes, a British member of Parliament who championed the American colonists' desire for independence. The city is named after Wilkes and Col. Isaac Barre, whose name is on Barre Hall at 80 West River St. The mansion-style co-ed dorm, built in 1873, was the home of local mining firm founder Richard Sharpe.

dallabaugh@citizensvoice.com

TIMES LEADER

JUNE 10 - JUNE 16, 2005

the Guide



- Page 3

LIVING IN STYLE



WHAT'S DUE
ON STAGE

- PAGE 5



'BRANGELINA'
DEBUTS IN 'MR.
& MRS. SMITH'

- PAGE 13

GRAND TOURS



Jesse Teitelbaum, executive director of the Luzerne County Historical Society, talks about a fancy fireplace at the Kirby House, which is now part of Wilkes University. The structure is one of five mansions you can tour Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

W-B mansions reflect the glories of a gilded past

By MARY THERESA BIEBEL
mbiebel@leader.net

Inhale, exhale. One last deep gulp of air. Then you'll probably have to hold your breath while your maid laces you — ouch — into your corset. Suitably fashionable in your slim gown, you'll be ready to summon a carriage and call on wealthy friends who live in Wilkes-Barre's finest homes.

OK, OK, don't panic. No one is planning to encase your ribcage in whalebones this weekend. But if you take part in the "Historic Mansions of Wilkes-Barre Tour," sponsored tomorrow and Sunday by the Luzerne County Historical Society, you'll probably find yourself imagining what your own life might have been like if you'd been born 100 years earlier.

Would you have been one of the city's prominent businessmen, retiring to the drawing room of the Kirby House after dinner for brandy and cigars? Or would you have been the servant responsible for dusting the beer steins carved into the woodwork of the Stegmaier House?

Maybe you would have been a child of privilege, playing hide-and-seek among the wooden angels whose heads support the armrests of two high-backed chairs in a great hall. Or maybe you would have been a teenager who toiled in a mine or silk mill most of the week, then enjoyed a cool breeze on the River Common on your day off.

Perhaps you would have been an architect who created some of the impressive homes that still grace South River and South Franklin streets. "What will it be?" you might have asked the socially prominent family looking for a new home.

"French Chateausque?"
"High Victorian Gothic?"
"Colonial Revival?"

See TOURS, Page 4



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTOS/AIMEE DILGER

Fans of chandeliers and sweeping staircases will be delighted with this part of Weckesser House.

◆ IF YOU GO

What: "Historic Mansions of Wilkes-Barre Tour"

Who: Sponsored by the Luzerne County Historical Society.

When: 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Where: Start at Luzerne County Historical Society Museum, 69 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre.

Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children

More info: 823-6244.



This room is the kind of setting where a lady of leisure might have graciously entertained her guests.

TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTOS/AIMEE DILGER

TOURS

Continued from page 3

All those styles are represented on this weekend's tours, which historical society director Jesse Teitelbaum sees as a way to highlight one of Wilkes-Barre's greatest assets — its history.

"Wilkes-Barre was an extremely important, booming town — not just to Pennsylvania, but to the rest of the country," Teitelbaum said. "It's important to know what the city was before you can bring it back."

Fans of history and architecture will find many clues to Wilkes-Barre's Victorian past on the upcoming tours, which begin at the Historical Society Museum, to the rear of the Osterhout Library in the first block of South Franklin Street.

Come to the museum first, Teitelbaum stressed, and you can pick up a map to the other five houses, all of them built in an area bordered by West South, West Market, South Franklin and South River streets.

Then you're welcome to proceed at



Look closely and you might see a cornucopia of nature's bounty in this elaborately carved handrail.

your own pace to the Stegmaier House, Weckesser House, Kirby House, Conyngham House and McClintock House, taking a break whenever you wish.

McClintock House, now a dormitory for Wilkes University, is the oldest structure on the tour. It was designed in 1840. The other houses date to 1872, 1897,

1911 and 1916.

Guides will be on duty from 1 to 5 p.m. each day to explain the intricacies of old-time elevators, chandeliers and pocket doors, as well as the advantages of such devices as a garage turntable. "It turned the car around, so you never had to back it out," Teitelbaum said.

The director will shepherd visitors

through the museum exhibit, where they'll see rooms set up to represent "Homes of the Wyoming Valley" as they might have appeared during the Victorian Era.

"When you think of the Victorian Era, you think 'elaborate' in terms of clothing and furniture," Teitelbaum said. "But we wanted to show everyday items, too."

Here you'll see not only the delicate furniture and fine china that would have looked pretty in a parlor but also a sturdy wooden washing machine with a hand-cranked agitator and an iron you would have heated on a pot-bellied stove before you pressed your clothes.

A tiny wire case called a "soap saver" proves the thrift of earlier generations; it allowed people to use the last sliver of a cake of soap rather than let it slip away.

You'll also find an old-time manicure set, hand-stitched quilts, a gentleman's suit and a pair of bloomers.

Oh, yes, there's even a dark burgundy gown, circa 1890, adorned with buttons and frills and a teensy waist.

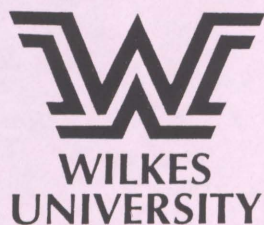
"That's just a fantastic dress," Teitelbaum said.

But think of the heavy-duty undergarments you might have needed first.



JACK KELLEY/THE CITIZENS' VOICE

**Tour one of
Wilkes-Barre's
historic
mansions this
weekend,
above, or stop
by the West
Pittston pool to
beat the heat.**



P.O. Box 111
Wilkes-Barre,
Pennsylvania 18766
(570) 408-5000
1-800-WILKES-U

June 2001

Dear Friends of Wilkes University:

As one of my last acts as president of Wilkes University, I am delighted to share with you the enclosed booklet on Kirby Hall, one of the architectural treasures both of the University and of the Wyoming Valley.

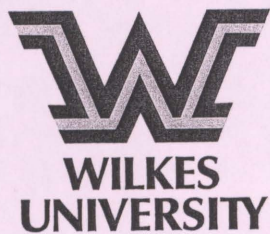
Written by Betsy Bell Condron and prepared for publication by Professor Harold Cox for the Wilkes University Press, the booklet tells the story of the house and of the family who lived in it, "for it is those people who give a house its soul."

Celebrating the complete renovation of the home of Fred Morgan and Jessie Amelia Kirby, made possible by the generosity of their grandchildren, the story we are presenting weaves together the architectural and the familial. Built in 1873, Kirby Hall is the centerpiece of Wilkes's beautiful urban campus and one of the most imposing structures in the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania Historic District.

We hope you will visit the renewed Kirby Hall and marvel at its beauty and be inspired by the deeds of the family that made it a home. We also hope that you will celebrate, as we do, Allan P. Kirby, Sr.'s gift of the "Kirby Home of Education" to then Bucknell University Junior College, on December 5, 1941. A vast majority of the more than 22,000 alumni of BUJC and its successors, Wilkes College and Wilkes University, have enjoyed the elegant ambiance of Kirby Hall over the last six decades. By the generous gifts of Kirby grandchildren, the home has been secured for another sixty years.

Sincerely,

Christopher N. Breiseth
President Emeritus



The rehearsal
10-10-20

P.O. Box 111
Wilkes-Barre
Pennsylvania 18766
(570) 408-5000
1-800-WILKES-U
www.wilkes.edu

NEW TRUSTEE ORIENTATION SESSION
9:00 a.m., Thursday, September 12, 2002
Boardroom, Weckesser Hall

AGENDA

9:00 a.m.-9:10 a.m.	Introductions	Bill Tremayne
9:10 a.m.-9:20 a.m.	Brief History of Wilkes University	Jim Rodechko
9:20 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Overview of Board Organization and Approach	Melanie Lumia
9:30 a.m.-9:50 a.m.	Recent Challenges (1998-2002)	Barbara Loftus
9:50 a.m.-10:10 a.m.	Analysis of Current Financial Position	Scott Byers
10:10 a.m.-10:20 a.m.	Break	
10:20 a.m.-10:35 a.m.	What Wilkes Means to Us	Anne Lin Kyla Campbell Connie Vecerkauskas
10:35 a.m.-11:05 a.m.	Strategic Vision (2002-2007)	
	Competitive Portfolio of Academic Programs	Maravene Loeschke
	Exceptional Support Services	Scott Byers
	Building Financial and Institutional Strength Strengthen Advancement Strengthen University's Financial Position Strengthen Trustees	Dawn Atwater Scott Byers Jerry Moffatt
11:05 a.m.-11:20 a.m.	Who Are Our Competitors?	Mike Frantz/ Joan McDonald
11:20 a.m.-11:35 a.m.	What Can the Board Do?	Tim Gilmour
11:35 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Questions and Answers	All

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DALLAS POST

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Louis Brown still going, but 'not as strong' at 99

P225 F Wilkes
By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — The floral deliveries keep coming, beautiful roses, tulips from Cathi and Rusty Flack, Mrs. Evelyn Ide comes to visit. Louise Brown smiles and wonders how people seem to remember her 99th birthday.

"Most of my friends are dead but the children still come over. I try to encourage people to come back again. Tell everyone I'm still going in Lehman but not as strong."

She revels quietly in the attention but seems to understand that she has become an institution in the Back Mountain community she loves.

Louise Brown was born in 1904 in Muskegon, Michigan, the granddaughter of an emancipated slave from Kentucky. Her family sent her to Philadelphia, to a summer school for playground workers, and there she met Leroy "Lee" Brown from Wilkes-Barre. "We meet on the first of August and were married December 10th; I don't know how it happened because he

See BROWN, pg 3



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Louise Brown attended service Sunday at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Dallas, where she has been a member for 60 years. Brown, who is well-known for her craft work, turned 99 on March 8.

Brown

(continued from page 1)

never proposed to me."

"I think we had a wonderful marriage though," and it became even more so when she moved to Lehman from Wilkes-Barre in 1936. They rented a house from the Stull family only a few hundred yards from the center of town.

"I have loved it here," she said. "I wanted to live on a hill in the country, near a church, so I could hear the bells, and see lights at night."

The Browns added a garage, an upstairs bedroom, and a fieldstone fireplace to the house which they eventually bought.

"I worked for the Lehman school when they started their school meals. I wanted to do better so I went to Cornell University to take summer courses in nutrition and dietetics. I thought I could finish (graduate) but could not. I then went to work for Natona Mills as their food service manager. It was an especially good job and I remember all the girls there."

Her husband was a butler to the F.M. Kirby family, managing their home at 202 South River Street in Wilkes-Barre (now Wilkes University's Kirby Hall). "He started to work there when he was 18," she said. "His uniform was a tuxedo. He had tremendous respect for Mr. Kirby and would be upset to know the old Kirby store had closed."

Louise and her husband were members of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas for 60 years. They drove to church in a Chrysler, Leroy Brown's favorite car. "Leroy didn't smoke or drink so he felt he deserved a good car," said his daughter,

"Tell everyone I'm still going in Lehman but not as strong."

Louise Brown
Turned 99 last week

Victoria.

An originator of and contributor to the church's annual rummage sale, Louise Brown's craft talents are legendary, and include needlepoint, rug making, embroidery and caning. She taught crafts at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA, Newberry Estate, and eventually along with Judy Dawe operated "The Coop," a commune-style crafts room behind her house.

Mrs. Brown also was known for her speeches on racial and political issues to area church groups, the Hoyt Library, and the Wilkes-Barre YMCA.

Louise Brown's favorite president was Teddy Roosevelt, "because he established so many national parks." Pressed to specify her political party affiliation, she notes that when she moved to Lehman she was told she would be "annoyed" if she didn't register Republican but credits the party for not "beguiling anyone" into changing parties.

"I was told when I came here never to say I was a Democrat. My husband served in WWI and my nephews in WWII, but I think they should have finished Saddam Hussein the first time around and now I hope they can at least wait until I'm dead to have this war."



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Louise Brown, who turned 99 last week, attended Sunday services at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church with her daughter, Victoria.



Shown are Dr. Christopher N. Breiseth, president, Wilkes University and Allan P. Kirby Jr., Wilkes University trustee.

Sculptures added to Kirby collection

The sculptures of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison have been purchased for the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, 65 South Street, Wilkes-Barre.

"These two busts of well known Americans are what I expect will be the beginnings of a collection of artwork to be lodged in the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship comprising portraits of early American entrepreneurs and scenes representing America's free enterprise system," said Allan P. Kirby, Jr, New Jersey.

He established the center and dedicated it to the memory of his late father.

The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship opened in 1993. The gift memorialized the senior Kirby on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

In addition to the center, Kirby endowed the Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. Dr. Jeffrey R. Alves, holds that title and directs all of the activities of the center and its students.

W-B T.L. 2-19-98

KIRBY HALL

Kirby Hall, constructed in 1873, was designed by the noted American Architect Frederick Clark Withers, and was donated to Wilkes by Allan P. Kirby, who gave it to the college in honor of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morgan Kirby, in 1941.

Fred Morgan Kirby, an American merchant and banker was born in Brownsville, NY in 1861. In 1884, he moved to Wilkes Barre and opened his first five-and-ten cent store under the name of Woolworth and Kirby. Attended High School in Watertown. Son of William Kirby., Capt who sailed around Cape Horn in 1849. In 1887, he acquired C.S. Woolworth's share in the store and re-organized it as F.M. and W. Kirby.

In 1912, Kirby was operating 98 stores east of the Miss. River.

Kirby Hall was placed on the Pennsylvania Register of Historical Buildings by Ron Andrews, author of this work and an alumni of Wilkes College.

Kirby Hall was built by Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Thurlow. Mr. and Mrs. Thurlow brought with them Mele. Gamboro, a French governess, who came from a wealthy French Parisian family. Mr. and Mrs. Thurlow were in Paris at the time of World War I and to escape the seige of Paris they went to England taking Mele. Gamboro with them. She returned to Wilkes Barre as their governess.

After the Thurlows left W.B., Mele became companion to Mrs. Sarah Atherton and after Mrs. Atherton's death she returned to France. She was in W.B. for 15 years and was in the Vogue to give instructions in the arts here in the Valley. She was an artist, gifted in music and writing and an accomplished linguist. She was considered a connoisseur and critic and her opinion ultimate. Long after her return to France her opinions were still quoted and her name considered a symbol of good taste.

Bruce Price-architect, was famous for also building the Hotel Chateau Frantenac in Quebec and many other important buildings.

The succession of owners:

Originally, Nathan Dennison and Edith Sills built a log cabin on this site. Nathan Dennison (Col.) was next in command to Col. Zebulon Butler and his marriage to Edith Sills was the first to take place in Wyoming Valley.

Later a large frame dwelling was erected here by Rosewell Welles one of the four lawyers admitted to the bar on foundation of the county and organization of courts.

The present mansion was erected in 1873-74 by S.L. Thurlow and was occupied in 1875 by a nephew of Washington Lee, a Nanticoke lawyer. A Miss Lee from this family married Bruce Price the architect. Emily Post, present authority on etiquette, was a daughter of the Prices.

more gn

patrol service. And, of course, his generosity gave us what is now Kirby Hall.

Honored for his service in so many endeavors, Kirby received the Kistinguished Achievement Medal of the Pennsylvania Society, thus joining the ranks of other noted recipients including Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford and Andrew Mellon. Another outstanding tribute on the part of Wyoming Valley was "Kirby Day", an event during which local ceremonies and publications were dedicated in appreciation for the work of Fred M. Kirby. Also on July 4, 1978, through the generosity of the Kirby Foundation, more than 8,000 local citizens and visitors viewed a pageant reenacting the Battle of Wyoming, presented by the Wilkes College Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts along the dike at Kirby Park.

Preceded in death by his wife, Jesse, Fred Kirby died on October 16, 1940 (just 14 days before his 89th birthday), at his Glen Summit estate. Thus, the story of his life ended, but his fame and labors are still very much alive for the people of Wyoming Valley.

Of course, it was in Kirby Hall that F.M. Kirby formulated many of his ideas and plans for his community. "If only these walls could talk" would be a fitting statement to be made in the building. The site has been a silent witness to events ranging from Indian settlements along the river to General Sullivan's Revolutionary encampment across the road, from steam boats cruising up the Susquehanna to the arrival of the first railroad train to come into the Valley on the adjacent corner in 1843. Here in 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt spoke on the River Common- the river water of many floods inundated its grounds. It has also witnessed the growth of a College and the intellectual development of many minds.

It seems fitting that a place so endowed in history and purpose should now serve as a hall of education. Indeed, it appears that destiny has directed this land to become part of an institution of learning. As if almost by an invisible force, Wilkes College acquired the property and Wilkes College holds as a goal for its students the constructive participation in the social, economic, cultural, and political life of the community. This institutional commitment is consistent with the Kirby family's philosophy. It is a quiet inspiration to those who learn here. Thus, Kirby Hall shall continue in its role- a source and symbol of our heritage and our progress.

The author wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Ron Andrews, alumni of Wilkes-'70, for the use of his scholarly and distinguished studies of the architectural history of the area.

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The author wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Ron Andrews, alumni of Wilkes-'70, for the use of his scholarly and distinguished studies of the architectural history of the area.

KIRBY HALL

by William V. Lewis, Jr., '80

It is a building, more elegant and majestic than most others, and with a sense of heritage surrounding it. It is not a hall of government nor an ancient ruin, but an aura of importance and history emanates from this place. As a silent witness to the establishment and development of Wyoming Valley, the land--and later the building--has had a key place in our local history. Kirby Hall has been the site of many of the great milestones in our tradition, and the recent renovations underline the continuing important role that the property will play at Wilkes College and to the Valley as a whole.

Indeed, the story of this historic property seemingly encompasses a synopsis of the early and continuing development of the area. The story begins with the founding of the Valley, when the site was listed as Lot No. 1 of the town of Wilkes Barre, in Major John Durkee's original town plan. Jabez Sill owned the lot on which he built the second house erected in Wilkes-Barre. This "house" was, in fact, a log cabin where, on April 1, 1769, the first marriage in Wyoming Valley took place. Colonel Nathan Denison, later famous for signing the articles of surrender following the Wyoming Massacre, and Elizabeth Sill were married at the ceremony.

In the early 1800s, the property was sold by the Sill family to Roswell Welles for 200 pounds. Interestingly, the deed contained a clause granting immunity from any claim to the property made under the laws of the State of Connecticut--a reflection on the then contemporary Yankee-Pennamite conflicts that the early Valley settlers faced. Roswell Welles was one of the four attorneys admitted to the bar of Luzerne County when the County was formed in 1787. A graduate of Yale College, Welles was to serve the area in the State Legislature, and later as a county judge. The home Welles built on the site was described as a "double-house, ceiled with pine boards and probably never finished in the second story. In front of the home stood the residence of Jabez Fish, on the banks of the river." The Welles home was, in its day, considered one of the social centers of the town. Here Herman Blennerhasset, later implicated in the Aaron Burr scandal, was entertained. Judge Welles died in 1831 and apparently the property then passed through several ownerships. George Bedford, in his SOME EARLY REFLECTIONS described the property during the period in this way: "When I first knew the premises the house was in a dilapidated condition and the large lot surrounding it was utilized as a lumber yard and the whole neighborhood was uninviting."

The site was eventually to be acquired by the Stephen Thurlow family in 1872. The present structure was erected in

1873-74 and occupied by the family in 1875. The building was designed by the New York architect Frederick Withers, a leading architect of the period, and is an example of the monochromatic form of the time. The architect's perspective and several floor plans of the building were illustrated in the December 9, 1876 issue of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS, a leading architectural journal of the late nineteenth century.

In September, 1880, the home was sold to J. Frank Lee for \$40,000. Several years later, in July of 1886, Lee sold the property for \$42,000 to Reuben J. Flick. The Kirby family acquired the property from Flick's widow in October of 1905 for \$55,100. Kirby made several alterations to the building. A stone terrace replaced the frame porch around the front of the building. Also, the interior woodwork and windows were replaced. The Kirbys did, however, leave intact the wall paintings above the wainscoting in the dining room that were supposed to have been the work of Mademoiselle Juliette Garbaro, a French artist who was brought to America by the Thurlow family.

The property remained the home of the Kirby family until the death of Fred M. Kirby in 1940. Thereafter, his son, Allan, donated the property to Bucknell University Junior College for use as the "Fred M. and Jessie A. Kirby Home of Education." The intended use was to be an art center and library for the College. In giving the property, the Kirbys provided for the use of two rooms on the first floor by the Wyoming Valley Society of Arts and Sciences—a group made up of many area civic leaders. It was this Society that was later to give to Wilkes College the land on which the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts now stands.

The need for a library surpassed the need for an art center in Kirby Hall, but, in a way, the Kirby mansion has more than fulfilled its intended mission. The upper portions of the house were used for classrooms and for several years the top floor of the building served as the President's residence for Dr. Eugene Farley and his family until the College acquired the present Annette Evans Alumni and Faculty House which was then used as the President's home. The removal of the library collection to the Eugene Shedden Farley Library meant a transformation for Kirby Hall into use by the Foreign Language Dept. Presently, the Department of Language and Literature is based in the building.

One of the most historic buildings on campus, Kirby Hall naturally has a number of tales told about it. Supposedly, around the turn of the century, a gambler named Poker Pan was killed in a gambling dispute in what was formerly the music room (now the language lab). Many alumni remember that for years the Kirby's chauffeur, Ted Dugan lived on the second floor of the rear carriage house, which was later to become the College Commons. The first floor, with its revolving turntable in the floor (Used for working on carriages and cars.) was used as a garage by the College until the chauffeur's death. Then the College converted the carriage house into a cafeteria.

Worthy of note in Kirby Hall are the terra cotta wine racks that are still in the basement, a graphic reminder of how life once was. Finally, it should be noted that while Wilkes College occupies the Kirby building, another school, Lafayette College, has one of its rooms. The Kirbys had an exact reproduction of the home's library built in Van Wyck Hall at Lafayette and the contents of the Kirby family library were placed there.

But of all the tales about Kirby Hall, the story of the life of Fred M. Kirby stands out as the most notable. His life reads like a Horatio Alger story, a young man working his way to the top of corporate and community affairs. Born in Brownsville, New York, on October 30, 1861, Kirby was the son of William and Angeline Slater Kirby. Prior to their marriage, Kirby's father had participated in the California gold rush of 1849. Fred Kirby received his education in public schools and at age 15 became a clerk in a dry goods store in Watertown, New York. Among his fellow employees were F.W. Woolworth and C.S. Woolworth, setting the basis for the later famous and profitable association. For eight years, Kirby worked in the store, until he had saved a few hundred dollars which was to serve as his share of capital in a partnership with C.S. Woolworth. On Sept 1, 1884, Woolworth and Kirby opened their first five-and-ten cent store at 172 East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre. When the store first opened, the fixtures were rough and unfinished and the counters were made of hemlock planks. Kirby's desk was an old dry goods box which he kept for years as a memento of the difficulties faced in his early business career. Kirby however, surmounted those difficulties because after three years he purchased Woolworth's portion of the firm. In 1888, he brought his father in as a business partner. The firm continued to prosper and by 1911, 96 stores east of the Mississippi River were in operation. In 1912, Kirby merged his five-and-ten cent stores with those of the Woolworth family and became a vice-president and director of F.W. Woolworth and Company.

Kirby's other business interests were numerous. He was a director or officer of many business organizations, including: the Miner's Bank of Wilkes-Barre; the Second National Bank of Wilkes-Barre; the Lehigh Valley Railroad; the U.S. Lumber Company; the Mississippi Central Railroad; the International Equities Corporation; and the Metropolitan Life Life Insurance Company of New York.

Many, however, remember Kirby because of his tremendous support of civic, humanitarian and philanthropic causes. His gift to Wilkes-Barre of Kirby Park and the Angeline Kirby Health Center stands out among his many good works. He was also a significant contributor to Wyoming Seminary and Lafayette College. His generosity is seen in the donation of his country estate in Glen Summit for use by the Episcopal churches of the area. Kirby even turned over his yacht, "Suzannah" to the U.S. government during World War I at no cost, for use by the coastal

in the coast patrol service as the "S. P. 510." His part in the five Liberty Loan drives was a most responsible one, while in the drives for the Red Cross and the organizations whose sphere was personal work among the soldiers and sailors, he gave most liberally of his time and his money.

On May 27, 1886, Mr. Kirby married Jessie Amelia Owen, born in Ogdensburg, New York, January 5, 1861, the daughter of James Congress and Huldah (Main) Owen. Mrs. Kirby is active in charitable and philanthropic work in Wilkes-Barre. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby were the parents of three children, as follows: 1. Harold, born July 6, 1888, died August 25, 1888. 2. Allan Price, born July 31, 1892; educated in the Harry Hillman Academy, Wyoming Seminary, Lawrenceville School, at Lawrenceville, New Jersey, Black Hall School, of Lyme, Connecticut, and Lafayette College; served in the United States Navy during the World War; vice-president and a director of the Second National Bank; married, February 14, 1918, Marion Grace Sutherland; has three children: Grace Jessie, born November 18, 1918; Fred Morgan, 2d, born November 23, 1919, and Anne Sutherland, born August 16, 1928. 3. Sumner Moore, born September 5, 1895; educated in the public schools, the Harry Hillman Academy and Cornell University; served in the United States Navy in the World War.

ALLAN PRICE KIRBY—Though a young man, Allan P. Kirby has been prepared for his present responsible position as president of The Kirby-Davis Company, Inc., by thorough academic training and by a diversified business experience. He is a graduate of Lafayette College, is known as an able and resourceful business man, and is one of the active and progressive citizens of Wilkes-Barre. The Kirby-Davis Company, Inc., are distributors of the Chrysler motor cars, with sales rooms and office at the corner of Market and Gates streets, in Kingston. Mr. Kirby, who lives in Wilkes-Barre, is also vice-president of the Second National Bank, of Wilkes-Barre, and is active in promoting the best interests of the city, serving as a trustee of the Wilkes-Barre Institute.

Allan P. Kirby was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1892, son of Fred Morgan and Jessie A. (Owen) Kirby, of Wilkes-Barre (q. v.). Mr. Kirby received his early education in the Harry Hillman Academy, at Wilkes-Barre, and at Wyoming Seminary, at Kingston, and then prepared for college at Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and at Black Hall School. He then entered Lafayette College, at Easton, Pennsylvania, where he completed his course with graduation in 1915, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science. After graduation from college Mr. Kirby entered the employ of the Bathurst Lumber Company, of Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada. In 1915 he returned to Wilkes-Barre, where he engaged in the food packing business. In 1920 he was one of the organizers of The Kirby-Davis Company, Inc., of which he is president. The company distributes the Chrysler cars, his territory covering Luzerne, Columbia and Schuylkill counties, and is now (1929) one of the successful and well established business concerns of the city. Mr. Kirby enlisted May 18, 1917, in the United States Naval Reserve Force, serving until December, 1918, when he received his honorable discharge as boatswain. Along with his business interests Mr. Kirby has found time for civic and philanthropic work and for identification with various helpful organiza-

tions, as well as with fraternal organizations. He is a Republican in his political sympathies, and is interested in all that pertains to the welfare of Wilkes-Barre. As a trustee and treasurer of the Wilkes-Barre Institute and trustee and treasurer of the Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Health Center, he is rendering most efficient and valuable service. He is a director of the Wyoming Seminary, and member of Tau Chapter of Zeta Psi Fraternity. He is a member of Landmark Lodge, No. 442, Free and Accepted Masons; of Shekinah Chapter, No. 182, Royal Arch Masons; Dieu le Veut Commandery, No. 45, Knights Templar; Irem Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Wilkes-Barre; and of Irem Temple Country Club. He is also a member of the Fox Hill Country Club, Hazleton Country Club, the Everglades Club, and Bath and Tennis Club, both of Palm Beach, Florida; the Union League, of Philadelphia; the Westmoreland Club, at Wilkes-Barre; Wyoming Valley Country Club, North Mountain Club, and of other organizations. His religious membership is with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, of Wilkes-Barre, and vestryman of the Bethesda by the Sea Episcopal Church of Palm Beach, Florida.

Allan P. Kirby married, February 14, 1918, Marion G. Sutherland, of West Pittston, Pennsylvania, daughter of W. C. and Grace (Klotz) Sutherland. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby are the parents of three children: Grace Jessie, Fred Morgan, and Ann Sutherland. The family home is at Glen Summit Springs, Pennsylvania.

WESLEY ELLSWORTH WOODRUFF, of Wilkes-Barre, was born at Salem, Pennsylvania, son of Rev. Dr. James Oscar and Eliza (Townley) Woodruff. Matthew Woodruff came from Surrey, England, to the Massachusetts Bay Colony soon after 1639, with the company headed by Elder Thomas Hooker. Most of them went to Connecticut and were among the early settlers of Hartford and Saybrook. The family was identified through succeeding generations in Connecticut, noticeably at Litchfield where the name has been known continually from the earliest days to the present. Others of the same descent ventured to Long Island and North Jersey. Thomas Woodruff of Connecticut Farms, New Jersey, was a minute-man during the Revolution and saw service in that area. His native village was devastated in Knyphausen's raid following the Battle of Springfield, which latter struggle has been immortalized by Bret Harte. Thomas Woodruff's son David Woodruff, married Mary C. Davis, of Westfield, and they had several children. Among these, Wesley V., who served five years with Sherman's army during the Civil War and became lieutenant of infantry. Another, Jacob Woodruff, was first a clergyman, and afterward physician.

Rev. Dr. James O. Woodruff, father of the present subject, and another son of David and Mary C. (Davis) Woodruff, was for nearly forty years a member of the Wyoming Conference of the Methodist Church, and held some of its most important posts. He was several years secretary of the Board of Trustees of Wyoming Seminary and during his pastorate in Wilkes-Barre, the present First Methodist Episcopal Church on North Franklin Street was built. He was given the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Wesleyan University in 1886, and was recognized as among the gifted preachers of his generation, a student, and a man of unusual executive ability, and of strong personality. At the

4 area buildings win pride awards

Standing proud

T.L. 2-25-00



Ten East South Street Apartments

Taking pride in appearance. That's the accolade bestowed by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, which presented Pride of Place Awards on Thursday to four organizations recognized for improving the appearance of the Wilkes-Barre area.

This year's winners were honored during a reception at Little Flower Manor/Saint Therese Residence, one of last year's winners.

The 2000 award winners are:

Wyoming Seminary's addition to Sprague Hall: new construction category.

The Kingston project, which began in June 1998 and was completed in May, added classroom and departmental office space to an existing facility. The addition features an open stairwell with the feel of an atrium, large windows and the addition of an elevator to expand access to the hall.

Wilkes University's Kirby Hall: restoration/renovation category.

Kirby Hall was built in 1874, and, at 17,000 square feet, is considered one of the premiere buildings on the Wilkes-Barre school's campus. The project began in September 1998 and was completed in April.

The goal of work at the facility was to upgrade the infrastructure to keep pace with the diverse use by the university without losing any of the details that make the facility unique.

Valley Open MRI & Diagnostic Center: interior design category.

The project began in August 1998 and was completed the following February. It involved a 1,500-square-foot addition and the refurbishing of an existing building in order to expand the capabilities of

the diagnostic radiology office.

Features of the Kingston building include cathedral ceilings, custom windows and doors and brightly decorated walls, all designed to make patients feel more comfortable.

Ten East South Street Apartments: environmental enhancement category.

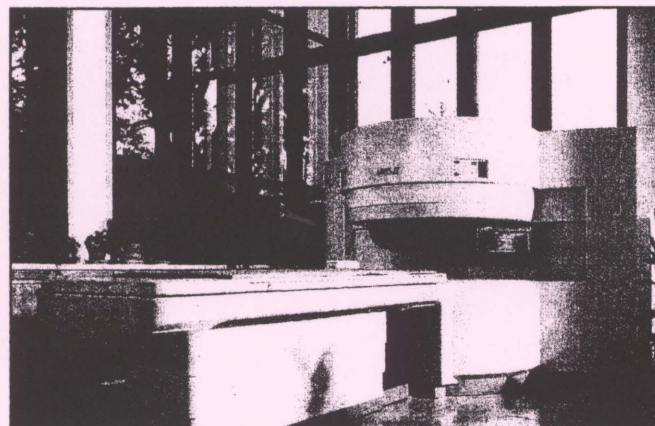
The project began when the complex opened in 1977 and is ongoing. It was undertaken to complement the design of the building and provide a park-like atmosphere for tenants and the neighborhood.

The total project area in Wilkes-Barre is 1.14 acres, 51 percent of which is landscaped with honey locust trees, Boston ivy, azaleas, hedging and seasonal flowers.

— Staff Writer Nicholas Petruncio

◆ INSIDE

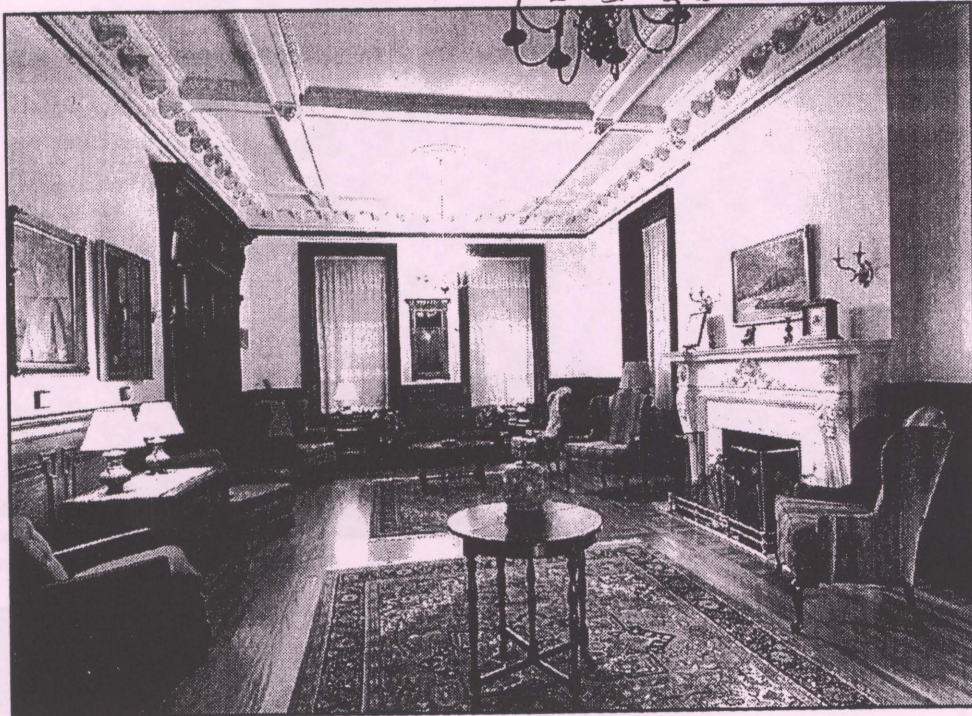
For a look at Wilkes University's Kirby Hall, see **Page 7C**.



Valley Open MRI & Diagnostic Center

PRIDE OF PLACE

T.L. 2-25-00



Kirby Hall, Wilkes University

ALLAN P. KIRBY, JR.
14 EAST MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 90
MENDHAM, NEW JERSEY 07945

973-201-543-2200

December 14, 2000

Mrs. Betsy Condron
President's Office
Wilkes University
Weckesser Hall, First Floor
30 West River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18702

Dear Betsy:

Enclosed is my photograph. Please return.

Also enclosed are two photocopies of the Coat of Arms, neither of which do it justice but may serve your purpose.

*in folder w.
pic for
booklet*

Following are the names and birthdays of my five children:

Jessie Ann Kirby Lee	June 18, 1954
Allan Price Kirby, III	April 22, 1956
Slater Baran Kirby	March 30, 1959
Coray Sutherland Kirby	November 15, 1961
Milan Stanton Kirby	December 22, 1963

Believe that was all you asked me to supply but if there is something more, please call.

Sincerely,



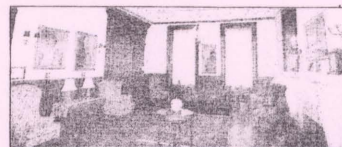
APK, Jr./ms

Enclosures

VALLEY HISTORY

Grand

old
homes
of



Wilkes University still maintains the charm of Kirby Hall.



Hessel Hall on the grounds of King's College, Wilkes-Barre.



Hayfield House in Lehman Township.

Wyoming Valley

Take a step back in time and tour the fine homes from the turn of the century that feature old-world craftsmanship and architecture unlike that of today

By Debby Higgins
Citizens' Voice Staff Writer

Her family disapproved of the union. After all, her family was worth \$18 million and his, a mere \$8 million. Despite this \$10 million difference in fortunes, Bertha Robinson married John N. Conyngham anyway.

While their union did not yield any children, it did leave a legacy of Hayfield House and farm, the mansion and grounds now owned by Penn State University.

Today, the mansion built at a cost of \$1 million during the height of the Depression in 1933 serves the needs of Penn State's Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman. While its use today is geared toward education, those who work in the home have maintained its place in history.

John N. Conyngham built the family fortune on coal. He used at least \$1 million of that old money to plan and design Hayfield House on an original 900 acres of land in Lehman Township.

According to Barbara Scovone, tour guide and a member of the Penn State staff, John was a tall man standing six-foot, two-inches tall.

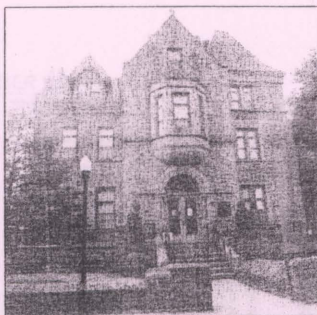
"Bertha was a mere five feet tall and wore a size 2 shoe. They must have made a unique couple," she expressed.

John had a bad heart that finally failed and he died of a heart attack at age 70. Bertha, who biographers say lived to be 100 years old, lived out her years after John's death at Hayfield House.

"No one knows for certain how old she really was. The family Bible that contained the page of births was ripped out. Some say Mrs. Conyngham tore it out herself so no one would ever know how old she really was," Barbara offered.

Their place in society is reflected in the magnificent home where they spent about four months out of each year. As was the practice at the time for the very rich, the couple spent the remaining months in Europe or staying at the Plaza Hotel in New York City.

From May to October, John and Bertha lived, entertained and enjoyed the mansion they planned and built together. Its place in architectural history is firmly es-



Kirby Hall sits on the grounds of Wilkes University. On the left and right, are historic clocks from Hayfield House.

tablished as a home that embodied the best in style, good taste and status. Bertha greatly admired several different styles including Oriental, French and American Federal. All are reflected in the home's décor and design.

"The front entrance is designed to reflect a Southern mansion in the Federal style. The doors from the formal dining room open onto a patio where guests would naturally spill out during a party," Barbara explained.

John was so big he had several cars specially made to accommodate his large frame. They were stored in the estate's 19-car garage that now serves as the campus student union building.

Bertha and he discussed each detail of the home that is indicative of the couple's wealth. Many components were gleaned from European castles, cathedrals and palaces. Several unusual examples of the home's design become clear during the tour. Barbara explained why John's personal bathroom contained a shower with clear glass in the doors.

"The doors are not frosted because of John's bad heart. It was felt if he had an attack in the shower, someone would see him and come to his aid. Of course, there was a nurse on staff at all times, too," she added.

Students now take class in the Oriental room that still showcases hand painted wallpaper.

Two brass ringed holes in the floor once contained buzzers Mrs. Conyngham used to call servants without disturbing her guests. The buzzers were located under the dining table, out of sight and out of mind until needed.

Stained glass windows from the 15th century, a fireplace reportedly imported directly from Emperor Franz Jose's Hofburg Palace in Vienna and a bedroom modeled after Marie Antoinette's boudoir remain part of the mansion's present day appearance.

The university has readapted the rooms for use as classrooms, offices and other spaces that fulfill the need for students, administration and faculty.

Hayfield House is one of several great old houses still in use in the greater Wyoming Valley.

Kirby House

The name Kirby is as well known as any other in the Wyoming Valley. The family that founded its fortune on the five-and-dime business returned many gifts to our area through the family's many charitable contributions.

A lasting legacy lives on in the family name and the family home, Kirby Hall.

Designed by famous architect Frederick Clarke Withers, the High Victorian Gothic home grandly sits on South River Street in Wilkes-Barre. It serves Wilkes University today by housing the university's department of language and literature.

Back in the 1870s when it was built, the home was considered "landmark masterpiece" in an article in *Architectural Digest* in 1976. Owner Stephen Thurlow commissioned the home that boasted decorated chimneys, Wyoming bluestone and dramatic facades.

Fred Morgan Kirby, F.M., as he is remembered, and his wife, Jessie Amelia Kirby, purchased the home in 1905 for \$55,000, a priestly sum in those pre-income tax days.

Thanks to a detailed history researched and written by Betsy Condon and Professor Harold Cox, the story of Kirby Hall has been published and thereby preserved by Wilkes University. Located in what is now considered Wilkes-Barre's downtown historic district, Kirby Hall's beautiful architecture stands out among its peers on South River Street.

F.M. and Jessie's son Alan Price Kirby and his wife Marian Sutherland Kirby gave the family home to Bucknell University Junior College on Dec. 5, 1941, two days before Pearl Harbor. When the gift was made, Condon said, "One of his many civic and well-considered philanthropies was the gift of this sorely needed house to the

city's first school of higher education."

Since then, the Kirby family has continued to support many programs and projects of a philanthropic nature including the Kirby Health Center, Kirby Center for the Performing Arts and Marian Sutherland Kirby Library, among several others.

The mansion served the family well and continues to serve the educational community through Wilkes University. A mansion of grand proportions, the home boasts 21 major rooms that have been restored in a recent project undertaken by Wilkes University.

Condon wrote, "The home's large salon was used for formal occasions. Now it has become a special scene for educational gatherings, English departmental celebrations, poetry readings and use by various community groups."

While the home has undergone renovations to accommodate its new use as an educational facility in a sense, the restoration has succeeded in maintaining its grandeur and its history.

"As one walks through Kirby Hall, it will be apparent that much of the grandeur of the Kirby's occupancy remains for us to savor and enjoy today," Condon wrote.

Hessel Hall

Moving from South River Street north to Hessel Hall on the campus of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, reveals yet another marvelous home that now serves a local college.

Unfortunately, Hessel Hall's history is not as detailed as it may be and details about the family after whom it was named are sparse.

However, the home itself retains its beautiful Romanesque appearance.

Now serving as the admissions office for King's College, the home was originally occupied by notable local attorney John Hessel and his family.

It was designed by architect F.L. Olds of Wilkes-Barre. The brick structure has a high gable roof with a large, three-story hip roofed section on the facade.

Hessel Hall has 13 large rooms and four fireplaces complimented by beautiful wainscot and carved dentil moldings. The homes three floors are in use by the college as offices and meetings areas.

Outside, ramps for handicapped accessibility have been tastefully added on so they blend with the porches and entryways. The house number, 134, has been permanently carved into the masonry dado.

King's has attempted to maintain the home's beautiful style while making use of the valuable space the home



The famous floating staircase at the Hayfield House in Lehman Township.

THE CITIZENS' VOICE



A spiral staircase in Hayfield House.

Historic home history

Hayfield House: Built in 1932 at a cost of more than \$1 million. It boasts 12 fireplaces and 12 bathrooms. No one architect is credited with its design since the owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Conyng-ham, directly partici-pated in the construction.

The estate includ-ed a 900-acre "gen-tleman's farm" complete with championship Clydesdale horses, cows, Chester White pigs and acres of imported shrubbery and trees.

The estate is now owned and operated by Penn State University Wilkes-Barre in Lehman. It acquired the estate from a Conyngam relative, Richard Robinson.



Hayfield House.



Kirby Hall.

was designed by the premier Wilkes-Barre architect Frederick Clarke Withers and is an example of High Victorian Gothic archi-tecture.

Through a series of owners the home became the property of Alan Kirby, five-and-dime store magnet, in 1905 for \$55,000.

Son Alan Kirby gave the home to Buck-nell Junior College, now Wilkes University, in 1940. The home, located at 202 S. Riv-er St., serves Wilkes University as a center for the English department.

Hessel Hall: Hessel Hall's history is sparse, but it was built by well-known architect F.L. Olds in the late 1880s. It is of the Romanesque design with heavy emphasis on brick and facades.

It is located at 134 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre. The home serves the college as the admissions office.



Hessie Hall.



Historical society presents preservation awards

The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society is pleased to announce the winners of Historic Preservation Awards for 1994.

At the society's annual dinner meeting, Richard Williams, chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee presented seven awards to historic buildings within Luzerne County which have recently undergone restoration. Award recipients were chosen from among the nominations received by the Society in the past year.

Awards went to Wisteria House, 415 Wyoming Ave, Wyoming; the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Wilkes University, 65 W. South St.; Nanticoke Micro Technologies/the Miners Trust Co. Bank building, Market St., Nanticoke; the Dorris/Reese resi-

dence, 41 W. Broad St, Nanticoke; The Follies, Huntsville/Chase Road, Huntsville; Damsite, Huntsville Road, Huntsville, and the Mossville Church and Schoolhouse, Mossville.

Seated from the left are Richard Williams; Kathleen Dorris Reese, owner of the Dorris/Reese Residence; Lenora Hayden, owner of The Follies, and Martha Terry, owner of Wisteria House; standing, Betsy Condron, Wilkes University; Charles R. Margelewicz Jr., president and CEO, Nanticoke Micro Technologies Inc.; Kenneth Hayden, owner of The Follies, and Mary Ruth Kelly, Historical Society executive director.

Absent are George and Lindsay Butler, Damsite, and Jan Conway, Mossville Church and Schoolhouse.

Local/State

★ SECTION B

Fred M. Kirby, Kirby Park's founder, wanted to thank people for his millions

By TOM MOONEY
Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE — Never before had such a crowd been seen in Wilkes-Barre.

It was June 4, 1924, and the community was accepting a present from millionaire businessman Fred M. Kirby — a huge new park on the west side of the Susquehanna River.

In the morning, aviators Clarence Chamberlain and Andre Remaud performed stunts and wrote "Kirby Day" in smoke 2,000 feet in the air above the park. Below, 25,000 children carried balloons with Kirby's name on them.

Then Edward MacLuskie's band played, Mayor Dan Hart spoke, and 6,000 schoolchildren marched in a grand parade.

The Rev. D. B. Jenkins read a poem that said, in part, "We're grateful for this treasure. Of beauty and of space. We'll speak with lasting pleasure, The donor's name and grace."

Kirby, 63, watched from the platform, near his friend Hart, who praised his gift.

Knowing the city wanted a park, Kirby from 1920 on had spent nearly \$400,000 to buy big tracts of land for it. Then he set up a \$500,000 trust fund to provide permanent maintenance. It was his way of thanking the community for the happy life and career in the variety store business he'd enjoyed for the previous 40 years.

Kirby's words on the platform that great day showed he'd spent much time thinking back to Aug. 30, 1884, the day he rode a horse-drawn streetcar along Market Street, just a few dozen yards away.

As a 23 year old from upstate New York, he was on his way from

Kirby was getting in on the ground floor of a promising new type of business. It was the five-and-ten-cent store, an unadorned store that carried everything from a pail to a comb, with hardly anything costing more than 10 cents. Profits came from volume sales rather than high markups.

There were a few precedents. Woolworth's brother, Frank, also from upstate New York, was operating a five-and-ten in Lancaster and making plans to expand. Other young men with the same idea were starting their own stores, mostly in Pennsylvania cities.

Riding the tide of post-Civil War prosperity, they would all cater to a rising mass clientele rather than an elite.

They would also challenge some long-held beliefs about business: that stores had to be elegant, that customers had to be guided laboriously through their purchases, and that low prices meant low profits.

The Kirby and Woolworth store opened Sept. 1, 1884, nearly 100 years ago.

Competitors probably weren't happy to see them. Ads from that time show they were undercutting S. W. Schloss, on Public Square, who sold coal pails for 25 cents; Crosby and Co., on South Main Street, where a large towel cost 15 cents; and the Boston Store, also on South Main Street, where the cheapest hosiery was 19 cents.

They took in \$26.12 the first day, not much even for 1884. But the young men's business sense proved correct. In time the store caught on, and the crowds were buying.

Kirby's career took off.

Two years later Kirby bought out Woolworth's interest, bringing his parents down from Watertown



Fred Morgan Kirby as he appeared in a 1931 book

blows."

Kirby believed that too. His mother was the center of his life, and in time he would dedicate to her the Kirby Health Center, a public health facility in Wilkes-Barre.

In 1912 the 96-store Kirby chain itself came to an end when Kirby,

He said he wanted Kirby Park to be "a place of rendezvous and recreation for young and old," with music and sports for all to enjoy. He told his architect to design the Kirby Health Center to "last for at least 300 years" to honor his mother and serve the community's health needs.

drawn streetcar along Market Street, just a few dozen yards away.

As a 23 year old from upstate New York, he was on his way from the Kingston railroad station with his friend and partner Charles S. Woolworth to take possession of the rented store where they'd sell low-priced household goods of all kinds.

He couldn't have felt optimistic when he finally saw the store. It was little more than a first-floor room in a building at 172 E. Market St., a then-thriving business street in the Heights section of Wilkes-Barre.

Kirby and Woolworth weren't complete newcomers to the business. They'd both worked for Moore and Smith in Watertown, and they knew how to run a variety store. Woolworth had operated a successful store in Scranton for four years. And Kirby, who'd gone to work at 14, a year before the Little Big Horn massacre, had done every job from running errands to ordering stock.

But they knew success wouldn't come easily in a bustling and competitive Wilkes-Barre of 50,000 people. For one thing, they didn't have much money.

"Our combined capital was \$1,200, contributed one-half by Mr. Woolworth and one-half by myself," Kirby recalled years later. "Of my portion \$500 represented my savings up to that time and \$100 was loaned me by my father."

His desk was a wooden box covered with oilcloth.

Still, they had one big thing going for them. That was history.

In the best American tradition,

Kirby's career took off.

Two years later Kirby bought out Woolworth's interest, bringing his parents down from Watertown and making his father William (1827-1895) a partner to repay the \$100 loan.

He expanded his line of goods, stocking seasonal merchandise. In December 1886 he took in nearly \$3,500.

In 1891 Kirby moved to a larger building on the southwest corner of East Market and South Washington streets. That wasn't his only expansion. Confident of success, he began opening stores in other cities; by 1896 he owned eight stores.

In 1899 Kirby moved to Public Square, and in 1908 he moved again, this time to his final location at 7 and 9 South Main St., where the store still stands, one of the oldest businesses in Wilkes-Barre.

At a prestige address, the store had the biggest electric sign in town, 33 feet high with 368 lights. It was part of a 65-store chain then, and by that time the former clerk was a nationally-known businessman.

The secret of his success? In 1931 his boyhood friend, Dr. James M. Smith, also a former clerk from New York, said he knew how it all happened.

"Our homes were near together, and as I glance back to those happy days of our early endeavors, I can see the most potent influence of his praiseworthy prosperity. There is his Mother (Angeline Elizabeth Kirby, 1832-1903) standing in the doorway, waving to us good cheer. She taught her son to stand four-square to every wind that

public health facility in Wilkes-Barre.

In 1912 the 96-store Kirby chain itself came to an end when Kirby, his old friends the Woolworth brothers, and the Charlton, Knox, and Moore variety chains all merged their stores into F. W. Woolworth and Co.

The new chain had 599 stores and dominated the variety store business in the East and Midwest. Kirby became a director of the massive new company.

Kirby was living well by that time. In 1905 he moved from Lincoln Street, in the Heights, to an elegant three-story mansion on the northeast corner of South River and West South streets. When built, 30 years earlier, it had been pictured in Architectural Digest.

He paid \$50,000 for the new home, and to it he brought his wife, Jessie (1861-1933), whom he'd married in 1886, and sons Allan (1892-1973) and Sumner (1895-1945).

Kirby settled into the life of a leading citizen of Wilkes-Barre. A vestryman at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, a member of the Westmoreland Club, and a director of the Second National Bank, he became a fixture in the community.

He also began giving generously of his wealth, helping institutions as diverse as Wyoming Seminary, in Kingston, and the Freeland YMCA. He laid the groundwork for the Kirby Foundation, which still gives huge grants to worthy public causes.

In fact, Kirby seemed obsessed by the belief he owed the community some kind of betterment.

Kirby Health Center to "last for at least 300 years" to honor his mother and serve the community's health needs.

Son Allan (1892-1973) began to follow his father as a businessman, becoming a partner in the New York Central Railroad in the late 1930s.

One of Allan's sons, Fred M. Kirby II, born in 1919, remembers life in the South River Street home and in his grandfather's summer home in Glen Summit.

"Even before I was 10 years old, he spoke to me quietly and privately on various occasions about truthfulness, honesty, integrity, and respect for women and my seniors," said the younger Kirby, now a businessman in Madison, N.J. "He had a soft but persuasive way."

The younger Kirby said in trips such as their fishing expeditions to upstate New York and Canada he too had glimpses into the qualities that made his grandfather a successful and happy man.

"Wherever we went, strangers seemed immediately to want to please him," he said. "There was something magnetic about his personality and he had a faculty for easy recognition of what other people were thinking."

Kirby died in 1940, at 79, having been an invalid for the last six years of his life. Since then, the family has lived in New Jersey, maintaining many financial interests.

The family's presence, however, is still strongly felt in Wilkes-Barre.

The Kirby Park bequest still funds the park's operations, the Kirby Health Center still provides many public health services and serves as a base for the Wilkes-Barre Department of Health. The Kirby Foundation's most recent gift purchased a new building for the Mountaintop Library.

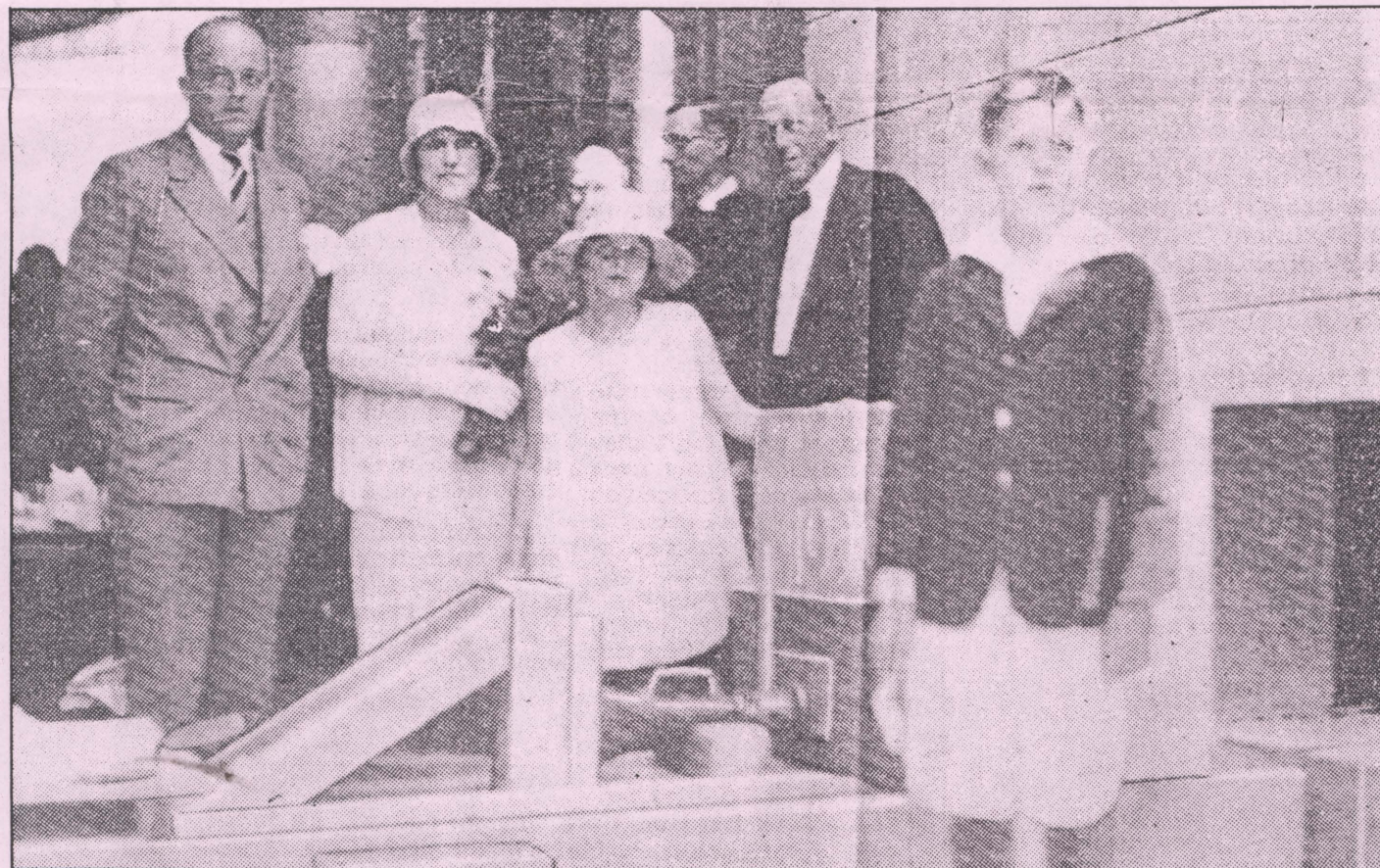
The old South River Street home, given to Wilkes College, houses that school's English Department, while the Glen Summit home was given to the Episcopal Church as a retreat center.

Kirby, his wife, and his son Allan are buried in the family mausoleum in Hollenback Cemetery, Wilkes-Barre.

His old store, still located on South Main Street and now part of the Woolworth chain, carries Kirby's name in bigger letters than Woolworth's name on its sign. On the front is a plaque commemorating the opening of the first East Market Street store in 1884, and inside the main entrance is a large framed photograph of Kirby.

"He believed in and preached the Ten Commandments and the golden rule more as a way of life than as religious precepts," said Fred Kirby II.

"He endured a long and frustrating period of immobility and health-imposed idleness but adjusted graciously and bravely throughout the end of a tremendously fascinating life dedicated to the benefit of his fellow man."



Some of the Kirby family posed for a photo during the laying of the cornerstone for the Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Memorial Health Center in Wilkes-Barre in June 1930.

From left are Allan P. Kirby, Mrs. Allan P. Kirby, Grace Jessie Kirby, Bishop Sterrett, Fred M. Kirby and Fred M. Kirby II.

- Weddings
- Engagements
- Religion Page

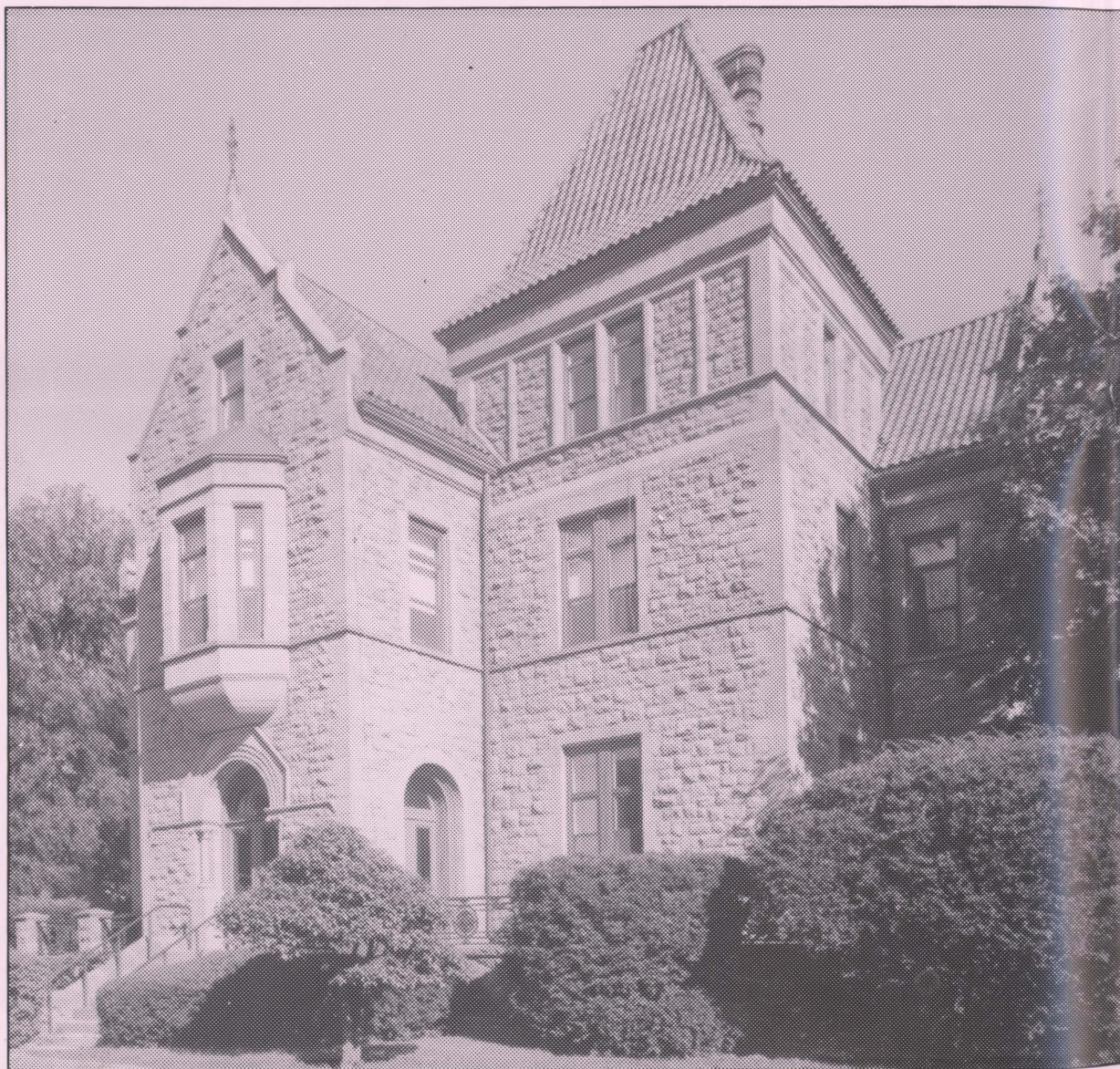
SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

Section

August 2, 1992

Kirby Hall Reflects Past But Welcomes Future

Restoration, Refurbishing Underway



Kirby Home for Education is still the centerpiece of the Wilkes College campus. Located on the corner of

South River and South St., the granite structure is almost 120 years old and still maintains its Victorian majesty.

It stands majestically on South River Street. It radiates stability, permanence and with each passing year the patina becomes softer and more mellow. It is the Kirby Home for Education.

The stone, the woodwork, the floors, the magnificent touches, would never be affordable today. The strength of the past is captured in this structure.

Wilkes University President Christopher N. Breiseth has announced plans to restore and refurbish areas of The Kirby Home for Education in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Allan P. Kirby, July 31. Mrs. Grace Kirby Culbertson, daughter of Allan P. Kirby, has contributed funds to the project as a memorial to her grandparents, Fred M. and Jessie A. Kirby.

"Kirby Hall is the centerpiece of the Wilkes University campus," noted Breiseth. "Mrs. Culbertson's gift will allow us to begin to restore this landmark building to its original splendor."

The first phase of the Kirby Hall renovations will transform the salon, currently used as a classroom, to a faculty seminar and meeting room. In keeping with the Victorian style of the home, period pieces and other treatments will be employed to furnish the room. Subsequent renovation projects will focus on the entrance hall and parlor.

"I adored my grandparents. My grandfather was a fine, outstanding gentleman who did a great deal for the Wyoming Valley," Mrs. Culbertson remarked. "I am delighted to begin this project. Because of my father's gift of this home, I am able to donate this memorial to my grandparents."

Located on the corner of South River and South streets, The Kirby Home for Education was given to Bucknell University Junior College, now Wilkes University, in 1941 by Allan P. Kirby, in memory of his father and mother. It was the fourth building to be donated to the school, which was founded just eight years earlier in 1933.

Originally, the first floor of the building was used for music students, the second as a library and the third floor served as the residence to Dr. and Mrs. Eugene S. Farley, then president of the college. Eventually the library expanded to all three floors until

1968 when the Eugene S. Farley Library was completed. Currently, Kirby Hall is home to the English department and the Foreign Languages and Literatures department.

Built in 1873 by merchant Stephen Thurlow, the mansion was designed by architect Frederick Withers and built with stone from the Hendler Quarry. In 1905, F.M. Kirby purchased the home from Reuben Flick for \$55,000 and lived there until his death in 1940.

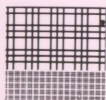
F.M. Kirby made several alterations to the building. A stone terrace replaced the frame porches originally built around the facade. Several windows were replaced, interior woodwork was changed and alterations to the original floor-plan and staircase were made.

Allan P. Kirby, the oldest of F.M. Kirby's sons, followed his father's path to the business world. In 1920, he organized The Kirby-Davis Company, a Chrysler distributor for Luzerne, Columbia, and Schuylkill counties, eventually becoming president. In the late 1950s, he became a director in the New York Central Railroad.

Married to Marion G. Sutherland of West Pittston, Allan P. Kirby was father to four children, Grace Jesse, Fred Morgan, Anne Sutherland, and Allan Price Kirby Jr. The family kept residences in Glen Summit Springs and Morristown, N.J. Allan P. Kirby Jr. is currently a member of the board of trustees of Wilkes University.

The renovation and restoration of the Kirby Home for Education is just part of the effort to preserve the handsome Wilkes University campus. One of the landmark masterpieces of the campus, the Kirby home stands as testimony to a family whose contributions to Wilkes University and the Wyoming Valley are beyond measure.

This site has been witness to Indian settlements along the banks of the river, General Sullivan's Revolutionary encampment, the first marriage among European settlers performed in the Wyoming Valley, and home to one of the region's early entrepreneurs. Now the site is witness to the development of young minds and the growth of a small junior college to a leading university.



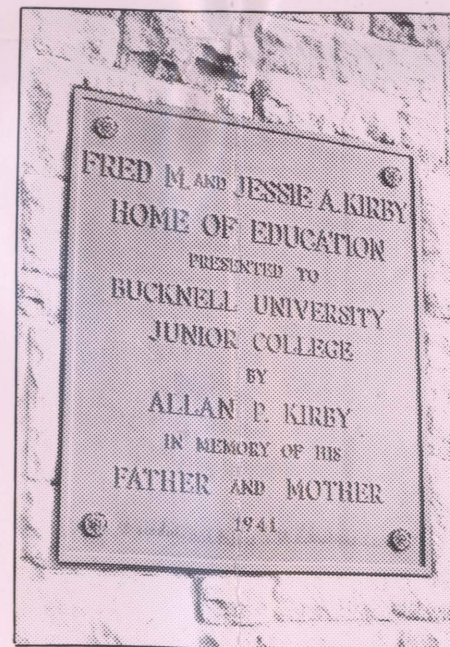
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2

3



Throughout the house are the original Italian marble fireplaces which through the years are still a focal point of the decorations.



After more than a century, the beauty of the staircase which dominates the entrance hall still retains its elegance. On the landing, the original window reflects the sunlight.



The original dining room of the Kirby House would be impossible to duplicate today. The magnificent woodwork, marble fireplace and ceilings are similar to

those found in European castles and mansions at the end of the 19th century.



The original library with its carved woodwork and intricately designed ceilings will be once again brought

to its original elegance as part of the renovations. It will become a room for seminars and meetings.

I adored my ^{grandfather} ^{gentle} ~~son~~.
He was a fine outstanding
I'm delighted to see
where to do this
what I'm "doing".

He did a great deal for
Wyoming Valley.

~~It's~~ only because of
my father ADK having
given this home that
it makes it possible for
me to do this.

T.L. 6-22-00

Chamber awards program reveals area has a lot of positives to accentuate

Over the past several years, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber has taken steps to recognize outstanding individual and corporate contributions to our community. More recently, we've set aside a day to celebrate these contributions at our Business Awards luncheon.

We have a tendency in our fast-paced society to highlight the trauma and adversity in our lives. The negative stories that send chilling messages to our neighboring states and those communities we compete with for new businesses and jobs often make the headlines and lead the discussion topics at the water cooler and coffeepot.

I challenge you to take a moment to reflect on our successes. Although we certainly have some challenges, we cannot overlook the positive attributes of living in Northeast Pennsylvania. These include our low crime rate, our varied recreational opportunities, our first-rate educational institutions, our unsurpassed quality of life, our region's professional economic development organization and our people. It is their in-

sight, drive, creativity and work ethic that truly makes our Wyoming Valley unique.

Recently, your Chamber's business support division held its annual awards luncheon at Genetti's Best Western in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

We recognized some of those who have made a positive difference in our community. They include the 2000 Pride of Place winners: Wilkes University's Kirby Hall; Wilkes-Barre in the restoration/renovation category; Wyoming Seminary Sprague Hall, Kingston, in the new construction category; Valley Open MRI, Kingston, in the interior design category; and Ten East South Street Co., Wilkes-Barre, in the environmental enhancement category.

The Lion Brewery, Inc. is the winner of the Chamber's 2000 Small Business of the Year award. State Rep. Phyllis Mundy is the recipient of the 2000 Athena Award. Chamber Business Education Partnership Awards were presented to Sallie Mae, the Citizens' Voice and Joseph P. Casarella, superin-

tendent of the Wyoming Area School District.

The Young Entrepreneurs Award, designed to promote the development of future business owners and operations in our region went to 19-year-old full-time environmental engineering student Kevin Frank who is president/CEO of Aquatic Creations. A new award category recognized divisions of local government that, improve the quality of life and the general welfare and/or institute programs that better utilize government resources on a regional level. This year's recipients are Wright Township and the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

Remember the contributions of those mentioned and take the time to recognize the value of our people and community in general.

Spend a little more time celebrating our successes and sending positive stories like these outside the valley.

John M. Levitski

Chairman

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber
of Commerce

C.V. 2/25/00



Event held at Little Flower Manor

Awards principals, from left, are Vince Matteo, Industry; Denise Lukart, Glenn Grosek, Dr. Juan Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Gaia, Polly Mitchell, John Maday and John Levitski.

Chamber presents Pride of Place awards

By Fred Ney
Citizens' Voice Staff Writer

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry conducted its annual Pride of Place event Thursday night at Little Flower Manor, South Meade Street, Wilkes-Barre, this year's sponsor.

Purpose of the yearly event is to recognize and honor businesses, industries and organizations that have improved the physical environment of the Wilkes-Barre area.

This year's winners included Wilkes University's Kirby Hall, River Street, Wilkes-Barre, for restoration and renovation; Wyoming Seminary, for its Sprague Hall addition on Market Street in the category of new construction; Valley Open MRI and Diagnostic Center on Third Avenue, Kingston, for interior design and Ten East South Street, South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, for environmental enhancement with respect to its exterior landscaping.

Kirby Hall, built in 1874, is considered one of the premier buildings on the Wilkes campus. The

first floor lobby, dining room, morning room and library were refurbished to simulate the original construction.

The Wyoming Seminary Sprague Hall addition provided new classroom and departmental office space to an existing facility. Special efforts were made to match the new brick front with the existing brick facade of the hall.

Valley MRI and Diagnostic Center was designed for maximum aesthetic appeal as well as state of the art radio frequency shielding using materials that are non-magnetic. Emphasis was placed on making patients feel more comfortable while receiving optimum diagnostic care.

Ten East South Street was recognized for its landscaping efforts, which create a park-like environment for tenants and the nearby neighborhood using numerous trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers.

Previous award winners included:

New construction: Luzerne County Community College; Snyder, Clemente, Mahler Shaffer and

Pugliese office building; Harris Semiconductor and Wilkes University.

Restoration/renovation and remodeling: First Financial Group; Guaranty Bank; Penn State Seed Company; Frank Martz Coach Company and Mountaintop Village.

Interior Design: Little Flower Manor; Shoval Enterprises; Cardoni and Associates; Merrill Lynch and United Credit Bureau Services.

Environmental enhancement: ENCON, Pennsylvania Enterprises/PG Energy; Franklin First Savings Bank and Luzerne County Head Start.

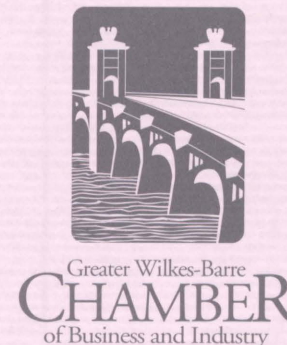
Speakers at last night's program included John Maday, Little Flower Manor; John Levitski, Chamber of Commerce chairman; Polly Mitchell, Wyoming Seminary; Glenn Grosek, Ten East South Street; Denise Lukart, Highland Associates; Dr. Juan Gaia, Valley Open MRI and Diagnostic Center and Dr. Vincent Matteo, senior vice president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry.

Community Kudos

Noteworthy scholastic and community-oriented achievements are listed below.

■ **Ryan Sirak**, a senior guard on the Northwest Area High School's basketball team, was named an All-Star at the Keystone State Invitational Basketball Camp held at Albright College, Reading.

■ **Wilkes University** received a large chrome and glass table from author Norman Mailer and his wife, Norris. The table will be used as a seminar table in Kirby Hall, home of the school's English department. T.L. 9-19-99



December 9, 1999

Mr. Mark Davis
Wilkes University-Kirby Hall
202 South River St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

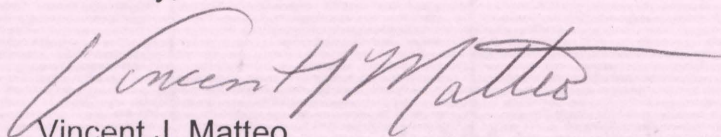
Dear Chamber Member,

Recently your company was nominated for a 2000 Pride of Place Award in the category Interior Design. Our judges had a very difficult time this year because of all the outstanding entries we received.

Although your company is not a recipient of an award this time, we wish to acknowledge your commitment to our community by maintaining such beautiful facilities and grounds. We also want to remind you that a facility can be nominated within 5 years of completion whether it is new construction, renovation, interior design or environmental enhancement. Please take advantage of the opportunity to have your facility nominated next year. We begin the nomination process in early summer.

Again, our congratulations for the pride you show through your facility and your commitment to maintaining beautiful workplaces which enhance our quality of life.

Sincerely,


Vincent J. Matteo
Senior Vice President/COO

TWO PUBLIC SQUARE • P.O. BOX 5340 • WILKES-BARRE, PA 18710-5340
(570) 823-2101 • FAX (570) 822-5951 • E-MAIL wbcofc@wilkes-barre.org
<http://www.wilkes-barre.org>

SCRANTON TIMES

SCRANTON, PA
TUESDAY 43,976
AUG 24 1999



BURRELLE'S

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Mailer Table Now at Wilkes

A table that once graced Norman and Norris Mailer's dining room is now in use at Wilkes University.

The Mailers used the large chrome-and-glass table for more than a decade in their Provincetown, Mass., home. It is now in Kirby Hall, home of the English Department.

"It's a fabled table and could tell many tales if it could speak," said Dr. J. Michael Lennon, vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Lennon and his wife, Donna, are old friends of the Mailers.

The table was prominently featured in Mr. Mailer's 1984 film, "Tough Guys Don't Dance."

PRESS-ENTERPRISE

BLOOMSBURG, PA
SATURDAY 23,318
AUG 21 1999



BURRELLE'S

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Norman Mailer's dinner table will sit at Wilkes University

Writer Norman Mailer is donating his dining room table to Wilkes University, where it will become a seminar table in the English Department's headquarters.

Mailer's connection with Wilkes is J. Michael Lennon, the vice president for academic affairs. The two men and their wives have long been friends.

"It's a fabled table and could tell many tales if it could speak," said Lennon.

Among the guests who sat at Mailer's table in Provincetown, Mass., were Ryan O'Neal, Sammy Davis Jr., Milton Berle, Liza Minelli, Tuesday Weld and Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

The table, made of chrome and glass, was in the 1984 movie "Tough Guys Don't Dance," based on a Mailer book.

The Kirby Salon

The Kirby Home for Education was given to Bucknell University Junior College in 1941 by Allan P. Kirby, in memory of his mother and father - the 4th building donated to the school.

The former Kirby mansion's drawing room has been recently refurbished for use as a seminar and meeting room. Mrs. Grace Kirby Culbertson, daughter of Allan Kirby, has contributed the restoration funds as a memorial to her grandparents, Fred Morgan and Jessie A. Kirby.

Once used as the college's library and later as a classroom, The Kirby Salon's renewal provides an elegant setting for poetry readings, teas, seminars and special gatherings.

In keeping with the Victorian style of the house, some period pieces and other treatments have been employed to furnish the room. Additional furnishings blend with the era, but have been chosen with practical, long-term use in mind.

These renovations are the first phase of a project which will focus on further preservation in Kirby Hall's first floor. All just part of the effort to preserve our handsome Wilkes University campus and landmark masterpieces such as Kirby Hall.

Wilkes
University

KIRBY HALL
RENOVATIONS

WILKES-BARRE, PA



Highland Associates provided full Architectural and Engineering services for the renovation of a 9,000 square foot historical building housing classrooms and office space. The mechanical and electrical systems were upgraded and interior finishes were used to preserve the historical character of the building.

HIGHLAND ASSOCIATES

The Times Leader
Monday, August 11, 1954

From
The Admissions office

WANTED TO TRADE PARKS FOR HIS MILLION

WANTED TO TRADE PARKS FOR HIS MILLION

Never before had such a crowd been seen in the park.

It was June 4, 1924, and the community was celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Mr. Kirby, a local businessman who had made his money in the coal business.

In the morning, visitors Clarence Chamberlain and Andre Koenig performed stunts and wrote "Kirby Day" in smoke 2,000 feet in the air above the park. Below, 75,000 children carried balloons with Kirby's name on them.

Then Edward Kirby, Mayor of the city, spoke, and 4,000 schoolchildren marched in a grand parade.

The Rev. Dr. B. Jenkins read a poem they said, in part, "We're proud of you, Kirby, for you gave us a place of space. We'll speak with lasting pleasure, The donor's name and grace."

Kirby, 53, watched from the platform, near his friend Hart, who presented his gift.

Knowing the city wanted a park, Kirby from 1920 on had spent nearly \$500,000 to buy big tracts of land for it. Then he set up a \$500,000 trust fund to provide permanent maintenance. It was his way of thanking the community for the happy life and interest in the variety store business he'd enjoyed for the previous 40 years.

Kirby's words on the platform that great day showed he'd spent much time thinking back to Aug. 30, 1884, the day he rode a horse-drawn cart along Market Street just a few dozen yards away.

As a 23 year old from upstate New York, he was on his way from the Kingston railroad station with his friend and partner Charles E. Woolrich to take possession of the rented

FRED M. KIRBY, KIRBY PARK'S FOUNDER
WANTED TO THANK PEOPLE FOR HIS MILLIONS

Never before had such a crowd been seen in Wilkes-Barre.

It was June 4, 1924, and the community was accepting a present from millionaire businessman Fred M. Kirby - a huge new park on the west side of the Susquehanna River.

In the morning, aviators Clarence Chamberlain and Andre Remaud performed stunts and wrote "Kirby Day" in smoke 2,000 feet in the air above the park. Below, 25,000 children carried balloons with Kirby's name on them.

Then Edward MacLuskie's band played, Mayor Dan Hart spoke, and 6,000 schoolchildren marched in a grand parade.

The Rev. D. B. Jenkins read a poem that said, in part, "We're grateful for this treasure, Of beauty and of space, We'll speak with lasting pleasure, The donor's name and grace."

Kirby, 63, watched from the platform, near his friend Hart, who praised his gift.

Knowing the city wanted a park, Kirby from 1920 on had spent nearly \$400,000 to buy big tracts of land for it. Then he set up a \$500,000 trust fund to provide permanent maintenance. It was his way of thanking the community for the happy life and career in the variety store business he'd enjoyed for the previous 40 years.

Kirby's words on the platform that great day showed he'd spent much time thinking back to Aug. 30, 1884, the day he rode a horse-drawn streetcar along Market Street just a few dozen yards away.

As a 23 year old from upstate New York, he was on his way from the Kingston railroad station with his friend and partner Charles S. Woolworth to take possession of the rented

store where they'd sell low-priced household goods of all kinds.

He couldn't have felt optimistic when he finally saw the store. It was little more than a first-floor room in a building at 172 E. Market St., a then-thriving business street in the Heights section of Wilkes-Barre.

Kirby and Woolworth weren't complete newcomers to the business. They'd both worked for Moore and Smith in Watertown, and they knew how to run a variety store. Woolworth had operated a successful store in Scranton for four years. And Kirby, who'd gone to work at 14, a year before the Little Big Horn massacre, had done every job from running errands to ordering stock.

But they knew success wouldn't come easily in a bustling and competitive Wilkes-Barre of 50,000 people. For one thing, they didn't have much money.

"Our combined capital was \$1,200, contributed one-half by Mr. Woolworth and one-half by myself," Kirby recalled years later. "Of my portion \$500 represented my savings up to that time and \$100 was loaned me by my father."

His desk was a wooden box covered with oilcloth.

Still, they had one big thing going for them. That was history.

In the best American tradition, Kirby was getting in on the ground floor of a promising new type of business. It was the five-and-ten-cent store, an unadorned store that carried everything from a pail to a comb, with hardly anything costing more than 10 cents. Profits came from volume sales rather than high markups.

There were a few precedents. Woolworth's brother, Frank, also from upstate New York, was operating a five-and-ten in Lancaster and making plans to expand. Other young men with the same idea were starting their own stores, mostly in Pennsylvania cities.

Riding the tide of post-Civil War prosperity, they would all cater to a rising mass clientele rather than an elite.

They would also challenge some long-held beliefs about business: that stores had to be elegant; that customers had to be guided laboriously through their purchases, and that low prices meant low profits.

The Kirby and Woolworth store opened Sept. 1, 1884, nearly 100 years ago.

Competitors probably weren't happy to see them. Ads from that time show they were undercutting S. W. Schloss, on Public Square, who sold coal pails for 25 cents; Crosby and Co, on South Main Street, where a large towel cost 15 cents; and the Boston Store, also on South Main Street, where the cheapest hosiery was 19 cents.

They took in \$26.12 the first day, not much even for 1884. But the young men's business sense proved correct. In time the store caught on, and the crowds were buying.

Kirby's career took off.

Two years later Kirby bought out Woolworth's interest, bringing his parents down from Watertown and making his father William (1827-1895) a partner to repay the \$100 loan.

He expanded his line of goods, stocking seasonal merchandise. In December 1886 he took in nearly \$3,500.

In 1891 Kirby moved to a larger building on the southwest corner of East Market and South Washington streets. That wasn't his only expansion. Confident of success, he began opening stores in other cities; by 1896 he owned eight stores.

In 1899 Kirby moved to Public Square, and in 1908 he moved again, this time to his final location at 7 and 9 South Main St, where the store still stands, one

of the oldest businesses in Wilkes-Barre.

At a prestige address, the store had the biggest electric sign in town, 33 feet high with 368 lights. It was part of a 65-store chain then, and by that time the former clerk was a nationally-known businessman.

The secret of his success? In 1931 his boyhood friend, Dr. James M. Smith, also a former clerk from New York, said he knew how it all happened.

"Our homes were near together, and as I glance back to those happy days of our early endeavors, I can see the most potent influence of his praiseworthy prosperity. There is his Mother (Angeline Elizabeth Kirby, 1832-1903) standing in the doorway, waving to us good cheer. She taught her son to stand four-square to every wind that blows."

Kirby believed that too. His mother was the center of his life, and in time he would dedicate to her the Kirby Health Center, a public health facility in Wilkes-Barre.

In 1912 the 96-store Kirby chain itself came to an end when Kirby, his old friends the Woolworth brothers, and the Charlton, Knox, and Moore variety chains all merged their stores into F. W. Woolworth and Co.

The new chain had 599 stores and dominated the variety store business in the East and Midwest. Kirby became a director of the massive new company.

Kirby was living well by that time. In 1905 he moved from Lincoln Street, in the Heights, to an elegant three-story mansion on the northeast corner of South River and West South streets. When built, 30 years earlier, it had been pictured in Architectural Digest.

He paid \$50,000 for the new home, and to it he brought his wife, Jessie (1861-1933), whom he'd married in 1886, and sons Allan (1892-1973) and Sumner (1895-1945).

Kirby settled into the life of a leading citizen of Wilkes-Barre. A vestryman at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, a member of the Westmoreland Club, and a director of the Second National Bank, he became a fixture in the community.

He also began giving generously of his wealth, helping institutions as diverse as Wyoming Seminary, in Kingston, and the Freeland YMCA. He laid the groundwork for the Kirby Foundation, which still gives huge grants to worthy public causes.

In fact, Kirby seemed obsessed by the belief he owed the community some kind of betterment.

He said he wanted Kirby Park to be "a place of rendezvous and recreation for young and old," with music and sports for all to enjoy. He told his architect to design the Kirby Health Center to "last for at least 300 years" to honor his mother and serve the community's health needs.

Son Allan (1892-1973) began to follow his father as a businessman, becoming a partner in the New York Central Railroad in the late 1930s.

One of Allan's sons, Fred M. Kirby II, born in 1919, remembers life in the South River Street home and in his grandfather's summer home in Glen Summit.

"Even before I was 10 years old, he spoke to me quietly and privately on various occasions about truthfulness, honesty, integrity, and respect for women and my seniors," said the younger Kirby, now a businessman in Madison, NJ. "He had a soft but persuasive way."

The younger Kirby said in trips such as their fishing expeditions to upstate New York and Canada he too had glimpses into the qualities that made his grandfather a successful and happy man.

"Wherever we went, strangers seemed immediately to want to please him," he said. "There was something magnetic about his personality and he had a faculty for easy recognition of what other people were thinking."

Kirby died in 1940, at 79, having been an invalid for the last six years of his life. Since then, the family has lived in New Jersey, maintaining many financial interests.

The family's presence, however, is still strongly felt in Wilkes-Barre.

The Kirby Park bequest still funds the park's operations, the Kirby Health Center still provides many public health services and serves as a base for the Wilkes-Barre Department of Health. The Kirby Foundation's most recent gift purchased a new building for the Mountain-top Library.

The old South River Street home, given to Wilkes College, houses that school's English Department, while the Glen Summit home was given to the Episcopal Church as a retreat center.

Kirby, his wife, and his son Allan are buried in the family mausoleum in Hollenback Cemetery, Wilkes-Barre.

His old store, still located on South Main Street and now part of the Woolworth chain, carries Kirby's name in bigger letters than Woolworth's name on its sign. On the front is a plaque commemorating the opening of the first East Market Street store in 1884, and inside the main entrance is a large framed photograph of Kirby.

"He believed in and preached the Ten Commandments and the golden rule more as a way of life than as religious precepts," said Fred Kirby II.

"He endured a long and frustrating period of immobility and health-imposed idleness but adjusted graciously and bravely throughout the end of a tremendously fascinating life dedicated to the benefit of his fellow man."

Wilkes University

Office of the President

January 9, 1998

RECEIVED
JAN 14 1998
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WILKES UNIVERSITY

Mr. Fred M. Kirby
F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.
17 DeHart Street
PO Box 151
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0151

Dear Fred:

Let me say in writing what I conveyed on the phone immediately after receiving the check for \$500,000 from the F.M. Kirby Foundation for the renovation work on Kirby Hall. I am thrilled at this generous contribution to secure a wonderful old building for another century of productive use. We will combine this gift from the Foundation with other contributions, including those from other members of the Kirby family, to reach our \$1,000,000 goal. Shortly I will be sending a summary of the project, and the resources identified, to you, Allan, Grace Jessie and Wade so that everyone is aware of our intentions and the available financing.

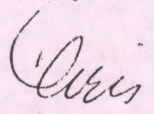
We fully understand the sentence in Paul Mott's letter of December 9, 1997, as a condition of the F.M. Kirby Foundation grant: "When the renovation work on Kirby Hall, as described in Christopher N. Breiseth's letters of November 26th and December 12th and enclosures, has been fully financed, we release the \$500,000 paid herewith to be allocated to this project."

Do you have any objections to our public acknowledgment of this grant? Please have Paul Mott let me know of any guidelines you have established for this purpose. We would like to list it in The Chronicle of Higher Education as well as in our local papers and in Wilkes publications to alumni and friends.

Please give my regards to Walker and Dillard.

No objections.
F.M.K.
1/12/98

Gratefully,


Christopher N. Breiseth
President

DEC 22 '97 15:34

P.1/2

*Kirby Hall
Innovation*

F. M. KIRBY FOUNDATION, INC.
17 DEHART STREET
P.O. BOX 151
MORRISTOWN, N.J. 07963-0151

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

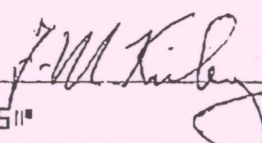
F. M. KIRBY, PRESIDENT
ALICE K. HORTON
FRED M. KIRBY III
JEFFERSON W. KIRBY
S. DILLARD KIRBY
WALKER D. KIRBY

This grant from the F. M. Kirby Foundation is an expression
of interest in your work by the Board of Directors
and is intended for general operating support
unless otherwise specified below.

For renovation of Kirby Hall

The F.M. Kirby Foundation requires that the enclosed check be endorsed with the name of the payee.

P. 2/2

F.M. KIRBY FOUNDATION, INC. 17 DE HART STREET, P.O. BOX 151 MORRISTOWN, NJ 07963-0151		5215
DATE 12/10/97		1-2 189 210
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	Wilkes University	\$ 500,000.00
Five hundred thousand and 00/100		DOLLARS
 CHASE The Chase Manhattan Bank Private Banking 1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036		
FOR		
⑆005215⑆ ⑆021000021⑆ 1345063276765⑆		

9820

DEC 22 '97 15:35

Wilkes University

Office of the President

December 12, 1997

Mr. F. M. Kirby
President
F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.
17 DeHart Street
P.O. Box 151
Morristown, NJ 07963-0151

Dear Fred:

Thank you for your letter of December 2 with its additional inquiries relative to our request for support from the F. M. Kirby Foundation for the renovation of Kirby Hall. Let me respond to each question in order.

First, in terms of the functional and esthetic needs of the building not included in our present proposal, you will recall our early correspondence when we talked about a restoration budget of nearly \$2,000,000 and a renovation budget of around \$1,000,000. Our creative interaction on this point over many months has made clear that we are not proposing to "restore" the building in terms of historic period or to make it look just as it did when your grandparents lived there. This approach would have required the larger amount. The present proposal does not include any historical restoration of interior architecture in the building. Design and construction methods used throughout will involve a pragmatic and functional rather than literal, historical test of materials to be used, including furnishings and fixtures. While we will make choices of fixtures and furnishings to be compatible with the architecture, and will select them from reputable manufacturers, they will not be custom made as would be required in a restoration. While our intention never was to do an historic restoration, we did indicate in that early correspondence what we calculated it would cost to do such a restoration. It was in that context that I raised the issue of restoring the library with new materials to look like it did originally (a concept involved in the \$2,000,000) and you concluded, I think rightly, that this was not desirable.

By "refurbishing" doors we plan to repair and refinish existing doors where these are decorative doors, particularly on the first floor. The secondary doors (within offices, bathrooms and closets) throughout the building that are in poor shape we propose to replace with architecturally compatible solid wood panel doors with modern hardware. The doors on the upper floors that face the hallways, and therefore are crucial architecturally, will be refurbished as on the first floor. The one exception to all this is the front entrance on River Street, which is a

Mr. F.M. Kirby
December 12, 1997
Page Two

combined wood and glass door. It is in very poor condition and does not have hardware suitable to be connected to our electronic security system. We plan to build a new door similar in appearance and quality to the original door, but with an electronic strike included.

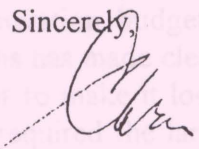
Finally, you are correct. We were in error in terms of consistency between the floor plan and the text in reference to room 215. You also were correct in surmising that room 215 is a "pass through" corridor which we plan to renovate in terms of the interior finishes. There are two separate, back to back bathrooms which the plans indicate as one bathroom (room 213). They are to be renovated. We will reuse the pedestal sinks and replace the other plumbing fixtures and interior finishes as noted in the plans.

I hope this clarifies our presentation. I am also hopeful that if you should decide to help us with this project that you and Dillard will remain close enough to the process to allow us to share more precise plans as they emerge for your review and response.

I hope that I will see you tomorrow evening at the Pennsylvania Society Dinner. Jane will be in Ann Arbor to attend our daughter Erika's graduation with a second masters degree (in Social Work) so will not be with me.

Thank you again for the helpful interaction to develop our proposal in such a way that you can respond to it within this year's funding cycle.

Sincerely,


Christopher N. Breiseth

cc: Ms. Betsy Condron
Mr. Allan P. Kirby, Jr.
Dr. J. Michael Lennon
Mr. Paul A. O'Hop
Mr. Robert Saffian
Mr. Paul Strunk
Ms. Margaret Webster

By "refurbishing" doors we plan to repair and retouch existing doors where these are decorative doors, particularly on the first floor. For security doors (within offices, rooms and closets) throughout the building that are in poor shape we propose to replace with a structurally comparable solid wood paneled door with modern hardware. The doors on the upper floors that face the hallways and therefore are strictly architecturally will be refurbished as on the first floor. The one exception to all this is the front entrance on River Street, which is a

cc: sent to
P. O'Hop

Kirby
Hall
file

F. M. KIRBY FOUNDATION, INC.
17 DeHART STREET
P. O. BOX 151
MORRISTOWN, N.J. 07963-0151

December 2, 1997

201-538-4800

RECEIVED

DEC 04 1997

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WILKES UNIVERSITY

Dr. Christopher N. Breiseth
President
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

Dear Chris:

Thank you for your letter of November 26 and enclosures which help our understanding of the project a great deal.

My letter of November 13 did not mean to inquire about what portions of the project as outlined might not be accomplished with \$1,000,000, but about what the functional and esthetic needs of the building are which are not called for in the present project scope. Please advise us about that.

Am very sorry to see in the scope outline numerous references to door replacement intentions, some in connection with security hardware needs. They don't make doors anymore the way they used to and I can only visualize important esthetic damage from the substitutions proposed. We were not impressed during our walk-through with a need for any such extensive replacement of doors and would like to know why the budget seems now to be so heavily and unnecessarily impacted. The character of the whole building will suffer unless you are able to bring more enlightened consideration to this plan.

The text associated with Room 215 says what I don't think it means.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Fred

F. M. Kirby, President

FMK:msw

From the desk of
Christopher N. Breiseth
President

Dec. 4, 1995.



Paul O. Hays

Will you talk about this with Bob

Raffian. Frankly, I was surprised about the doors.
And what about the functional and esthetic needs
of the building not called for in the present project
scope.

Chris

Wilkes University

faxed 11/26/97
mailed via Fed Ex
11/26/97

Office of the President

November 26, 1997

Mr. Fred M. Kirby, II
President
F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.
17 DeHart Street
PO Box 151
Morristown, NJ 07963-0151

Dear Fred:

I enjoyed talking with Dillard on Tuesday. Here is the further detail you asked for in your letter of November 13, 1997. We are most grateful both that you are ready to consider the proposal to renovate Kirby Hall in this year's funding cycle and that you are considering \$500,000 as The F.M. Kirby Foundation's share of a \$1,000,000 project.

With your \$500,000, we have identified an additional \$360,000 from the capital campaign and from other members of the Kirby family. This leaves us \$140,000 short but gets us close enough to the goal that we are confident of raising the full amount if the Kirby Foundation makes the generous contribution your letter suggests.

I am enclosing as a supplement to the contractor's proposal you have seen already a copy of the floor plans numbered by room as was done by the contractor. A scope of work by floor and by room is also enclosed.

We are satisfied that by raising the final \$140,000 the full scope of work can be completed. The major unknown with the renovation of an old building with the characteristics of Kirby Hall is what we might find as we cut into the walls to install the updated infrastructure. But the contractor and our staff architect are confident that the full infrastructure work as well as the cosmetic improvements can be done with the \$988,000 figure. If we have to cut back once the full work is under way, because we run into unanticipated problems, this will involve some of the cosmetic treatments on the upper floors as well as the work on the exterior. You will note at the end of the scope of work document a prioritizing of efforts, the last of which is the building's exterior.

Budget management will be a priority, as it has been for all of our renovation projects on old buildings. We have had considerable experience in this area and while Kirby Hall is a significantly bigger building than some of the others we have improved, we are not performing

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such radical surgery as we did on them nor installing elevators. The other projects (The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Capin Hall, Pearsall Hall, Passan Hall) were accomplished for approximately \$500,000 each, including completely new electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems.

I hope this update gives you the information The F.M. Kirby Foundation will need to evaluate our Kirby Hall proposal. The accomplishment of this project will be a credit to us all in renewing a splendid structure for another century.

Please let me know if this update suggests any further questions you might have. Thank you for considering the Wilkes proposal.

Sincerely,



Christopher N. Breiseth
President

Enclosure

Wilkes University

Office of the President

BC: Mr. Allan P. Kirby, Jr.
Mr. Paul A. O'Hop
Mr. Robert Saffian (letter only)
Ms. Maggie Webster
October 29, 1997

Mr. Paul B. Mott, Jr.
Executive Director
F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.
17 DeHart Street
P. O. Box 151
Morristown, N.J. 07963-0151

Dear Paul:

I hereby submit to the F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc., a proposal to help accomplish the renovations of Kirby Hall that we discussed during the visit of Fred and Dillard Kirby earlier this fall. The proposal is in the form of a detailed breakdown of the work that needs to be done and the projected cost by Power Builders, Inc., a general contractor with whom we have done a great deal of work. They have been outstanding in the quality, cost and timeliness of their work. As you can see, their estimated total cost of renovations is \$988,924, which is in the form of a guaranteed maximum price from Power Builders.

Fred has written in earlier letters his desire to share this responsibility with other members of the family. I have indicated the amounts already contributed by Grace Jessie (\$45,000 was her original gift, of which \$14,000 remains for the Morning Room outfitting, a corrected amount from my earlier letters) and Ann's family (\$25,000 for the dining room, not yet expended and appreciating within our endowment). Allan has not contributed to the Kirby Hall project but spoke earlier of his willingness to designate a portion of his contribution to the Wilkes "Endow the Future" Capital Campaign to help make up the difference between a gift from the F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. and the approximately \$1,000,000 needed for the renovation. I have every reason to assume that Allan remains ready to help in this way.

My proposal is that the F.M. Kirby Foundation contribute \$700,000 to the project, that Wilkes raise \$200,000 through the Capital Campaign, and that we seek the remaining approximately \$100,000 from other members of the Kirby family, including Allan.

If there is anything else you need from me before the Foundation evaluates our proposal, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Christopher N. Breiseth
President

Enclosures

P.S. I am also enclosing an essay by one of our students on Kirby Hall for Mrs. Kirby who talked with Dr. Patricia Heaman, the Chair of the English Department, about the essay during our tour of the building together. She may want to share it with Dillard's wife as well who seemed most interested in the building's history.

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18766 • (717) 831-4000 • Fax: (717) 831-7800
e-mail: breiseth@colonel.csc.wilkes.edu

WILKES COLLEGE

A HISTORY
OF KIRBY HALL

BY

WILLIAM V. LEWIS, JR.

A GRADUATE

OF THE CLASS OF 1980

SEPTEMBER 1980

It is a building, more elegant and majestic than most others, and with a sense of heritage surrounding it. It is not a hall of government nor an ancient ruin, but an aura of importance and history emanates from this place. As a silent witness to the establishment and development of Wyoming Valley, the land -- and later the building -- has had a key place in our local history. Kirby Hall has been the site of many of the great milestones in our tradition, and the recent renovations underline the continuing important role that the property will play at Wilkes College and to the Valley as a whole.

Indeed, the story of this historic property seemingly encompasses a synopsis of the early and continuing development of the area. The story begins with the founding of the Valley, when the site was listed as Lot No. 1 of the town of Wilkes-Barre in Major John Durkee's original town plan. Jabez Sill owned the lot, on which he built the second house erected in Wilkes-Barre. This "house" was, in fact, a log cabin where, on April 1, 1769, the first marriage in Wyoming Valley took place. Colonel Nathan Denison, later famous for signing the articles of surrender following the Wyoming Massacre, and Elizabeth Sill were married at the ceremony.

In the early 1800's, the property was sold by the Sill family to Roswell Welles for 200 pounds. Interestingly, the deed contained a clause granting immunity from any claim to the property made under the laws of the State of Connecticut -- a reflection on

the then contemporary Yankee-Pennamite conflicts that the early Valley settlers faced. Roswell Welles was one of the four attorneys admitted to the bar of Luzerne County when the County was formed in 1787. A graduate of Yale College, Welles was to serve the area in the State Legislature, and later as a county judge. The home Welles built on the site was described as a "double house, ceiled with pine boards and probably never finished in the second story. Nearly in front of the home stood the residence of Jabez Fish, on the bank of the river." The Welles home was, in its day, considered one of the social centers of the town. Here Harman Blennerhasset, later implicated in the Aaron Burr scandal, was entertained. Judge Welles died in 1831 and apparently the property then passed through several owners. George Bedford, in his Some Early Reflections, described the property during the period in this way: "When I first knew the premises the house was in a dilapidated condition and the large lot surrounding it was utilized as a lumber yard and the whole neighborhood was uninviting."

The site was eventually to be acquired by the Stephen Thurlow family in 1872. The present structure was erected in 1873-74 and occupied by the family in 1875. The building was designed by the New York architect Frederick Withers, a leading architect of the period, and is an example of the monochromatic form of the High Victorian Gothic style of the time. The architect's perspective and several floor plans of the building were illustrated in the December 9, 1876 issue of The American Architect and Building News, a leading architectural journal of the late nineteenth century.

In September, 1880, the home was sold to J. Frank Lee for \$40,000. Several years later, in July of 1886, Lee sold the property from \$42,500 to Reuben J. Flick. The Kirby family acquired the property from Flick's widow in October of 1905 for \$55,100. Kirby made several alterations to the building. A stone terrace replaced the frame porch around the front of the building. Also, the interior woodwork and windows were replaced. The Kirbys did, however, leave intact the wall paintings above the wainscoting in the dining room that were supposed to have been the work of Mademoiselle Juliette Gambaro, a French artist who was brought to America by the Thurlow family.

The property remained the home of the Kirby family until the death of Fred M. Kirby in 1940. Thereafter, his son, Allan, donated the property to Bucknell University Junior College for use as the "Fred M. and Jessie A. Kirby Home of Education." The intended use was to be an art center and library for the College. In giving the property, the Kirbys provided for the use of two rooms on the first floor by the Wyoming Valley Society of Arts and Sciences -- a group made up of many area civic leaders. It was this Society that was later to give to Wilkes College the land on which the Dorothy Dickson-Darte Center for the Performing Arts now stands.

The need for a library surpassed the need for an art center in Kirby Hall, but, in a way, the Kirby mansion has more than fulfilled its intended mission. The upper portions of the house were used for classrooms, and for several years the top floor of

the building served as the President's residence for the Farleys, until the College acquired the present Annette Evans Alumni and Faculty House for use as the President's home. The removal of the library collection to the Eugene Shedden Farley Library meant a transformation for Kirby Hall into use by the foreign language departments. Presently, the Department of Language and Literature is based in the building.

As one of the most historic buildings on campus, Kirby Hall naturally has a number of tales told about it. Supposedly, around the turn of the century, a gambler named Poker Pan was killed in a gambling dispute in what was formerly the music room (now the language lab). Many alumni remember that for years the Kirby's chauffeur, Ted Dugan, lived on the second floor of the rear carriage house, which was later to become the College Commons. The first floor, with its revolving turntable in the floor (used for working on carriages and cars), was used as a garage by the College until the chauffeur's death. Then the College converted the carriage house into a cafeteria.

Worthy of note in Kirby Hall are the terra cotta wine racks that are still in the basement, a strange reminder of how life once was. Finally, it should be noted that while Wilkes College occupies the Kirby building, another school, Lafayette College, has one of its rooms. The Kirbys had an exact reproduction of the home's library built in Van Wyck Hall at Lafayette and the contents of the Kirby family library were placed there.

But of all the tales about Kirby Hall, the story of the life of Fred M. Kirby stands out as the most notable. His life reads like a Horatio Alger story, a young man working his way to the top of corporate and community affairs. Born in Brownsville, New York, on October 30, 1861, Kirby was the son of William and Angeline Slater Kirby. Prior to his marriage, Kirby's father had participated in the California gold rush of 1849. Fred Kirby received his education in public schools and at age 15 became a clerk in a dry goods store in Watertown, New York. Among his fellow employees were F. W. Woolworth and C. S. Woolworth, setting the basis for the later famous and profitable association. For eight years, Kirby worked in the store, until he had saved a few hundred dollars which was to serve as his share of capital in a partnership with C. S. Woolworth. On September 1, 1884, Woolworth and Kirby opened their first five-and-ten cent store at 172 East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre. When the store first opened, the fixtures were rough and unfinished and the counters were made of hemlock planks. Kirby's desk was an old dry goods box which he kept for years as a memento of the difficulties faced in his early business career. Kirby, however, surmounted those difficulties because after three years he purchased Woolworth's portion of the firm. In 1888, he brought his father in as a business partner. The firm continued to prosper and by 1911, 96 stores east of the Mississippi River were in operation. In 1912, Kirby merged his five-and-ten cent stores with those of the Woolworth family and became a vice-president and director of F. W. Woolworth and Company.

Kirby's other business interests were numerous. He was a director or officer of many business organizations, including: the Miner's Bank of Wilkes-Barre; the Second National Bank of Wilkes-Barre; the Lehigh Valley Railroad; the U. S. Lumber Company; the Mississippi Central Railroad; the International Equities Corporation; and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York.

Many, however, remember Kirby because of his tremendous support of civic, humanitarian, and philanthropic causes. His gift to Wilkes-Barre of Kirby Park and the Angeline Kirby Health Center stands out among his many good works. He was also a significant contributor to Wyoming Seminary and Lafayette College. His generosity is seen in the donation of his country estate in Glen Summit for use by the Episcopal churches of the area. Kirby even turned his yacht, "Suzanne," over to the U. S. government during World War I at no cost, for use by the coastal patrol service. And, of course, the generosity gave us what is now Kirby Hall.

Honored for his service on so many endeavors, Kirby received the Distinguished Achievement Medal of the Pennsylvania Society, thus joining the ranks of other noted recipients including Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford, and Andrew Mellon. Another outstanding tribute on the part of Wyoming Valley was "Kirby Day," an event during which local ceremonies and publications were dedicated in appreciation for the work of Fred M. Kirby. Also, on July 4, 1978, through the generosity of the Kirby Foundation, more than 8,000

local citizens and visitors viewed a pageant reenacting the Battle of Wyoming, presented by the Wilkes College Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts along the dike at Kirby Park.

Preceded in death by his wife, Jessie, Fred Kirby died on October 16, 1940, at his Glen Summit estate. Thus, the story of his life ended, but his fame and labors are still very much alive for the people of Wyoming Valley.

Of course, it was in Kirby Hall that F. M. Kirby formulated many of his ideas and plans for this community. "If only these walls could talk" would be a fitting statement to be made in the building. The site has been a silent witness to events ranging from Indian settlements along the river to General Sullivan's Revolutionary encampment across the road, from steam boats cruising up the Susquehanna to the arrival of the first railroad train in the Valley on the adjacent corner in 1843. It has seen the speech of President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905 on the River Common and the river water of many floods across its grounds. It has also witnessed the growth of a College and the intellectual development of many minds.

It seems fitting that a place so endowed in history and purpose should now serve as a hall of education. Indeed, it appears that destiny has directed this land to become part of an institution of learning. As if almost by an invisible force, Wilkes College acquired the property and Wilkes College holds as a goal for its students the constructive participation in the social, economic,

cultural, and political life of the community. This institutional commitment is consistent with the Kirby family's philosophy. It is a quiet inspiration to those who learn here. Thus, Kirby Hall shall continue in its role -- a source and symbol of our heritage and our progress.

Very truly,
The Kirby Family

Enclosure

I herewith submit a letter from Kirby Hall, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, which is the legal owner of Kirby Hall. The letter is in the form of a report on the progress of the work that needs to be done and the progress that has been made. It is a report on the work that needs to be done and the progress that has been made. It is a report on the work that needs to be done and the progress that has been made.

The Kirby family, in earlier letters has desired to share this report with you. The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors. The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors. The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors.

The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors. The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors. The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors.

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Note: The author wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Ron Andrews '70, for the use of his scholarly and distinguished studies of the architectural history of the area.

Respectfully,

The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors. The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors. The Kirby family has contributed the amounts already contributed by other donors.

Kirby Hall
202 South River Street

Kirby Hall was erected in 1873-1874 as the residence of Stephen Leonard Thurlow, a Wilkes-Barre businessman.¹ Prior to building the South River Street house, Thurlow lived on South Franklin Street in the building now known as Sturdevant Hall. 202 South River Street was given to Bucknell Junior College in 1941 by Allan P. Kirby (1892-1973), a financier.² The building was dedicated as the Fred M. and Jesse A. Kirby Home for Education in memory of Allan Kirby's parents. Kirby Hall presently houses several classrooms and faculty offices.

Kirby Hall is an example of the monochromatic form of the ^{High Victorian Gothic} Queen Anne style of architecture of the late nineteenth century. The house was designed by the New York architect Frederick Clark Withers (1828-1901).³ A leading architect of the period, Withers was associated with Frederick Law Olmstead and for several years was a partner of Calvert Vaux in the architectural firm of Vaux and Withers. This firm made renovations to the McClintock house, now McClintock Hall, about 1863.

The architect's perspective and the plans of the two principal floors were illustrated in the December 9, 1876 issue of The American Architect and Building News, a leading architectural journal of the late nineteenth.

century. The perspective, however, was inadvertently reversed in the publishing process. Apparently, Withers considered the Thurlow house to be one of his important works for it is included in a type-of-advertising pamphlet entitled Buildings of F. C. Withers.⁴ This pamphlet appeared in 1877.

The property was acquired by J. Franklin Lee about 1880 and sold to Reuben J. Flick about 1886. In 1905 Fred Morgan Kirby (1861-19) purchased the house.⁵ Kirby opened a five and ten cent store in Wilkes-Barre about 1884 and eventually expanded the business into a chain of ninety-six stores operating under the name of F. M. Kirby and Company. In 1912 Kirby merged his business interests with those of Frank W. Woolworth and others to form the F. W. Woolworth Company. Kirby became a vice-president of the new firm.

Kirby had several alterations made to the building. A stone terrace replaced the frame porches originally around the facade. Several of the original two-over-two sash windows were replaced with one-over-one sash windows. The original interior woodwork was replaced with the present "academic" moldings. It appears that minor alterations were made to the floor plan, particularly to the staircase. The floor plan that appeared in the 1876 journal shows the staircase in an E-form with one set of steps rising from the first floor to the landing and two

sets of steps leading from the landing up to the second floor.

Kirby Hall has a center hall with the principle rooms arrange along the sides. When the college acquired the house, it retained much of the grandeur and some of the furnishings from the years of the Kirbys' occupancy. It was reported in an article that appeared in the school newspaper at the time the building was dedicated that the walls of the main hall on the first floor were covered with scarlet brocade.⁶ In the article the southwest room on the first floor was described as having "scenic walls of gray and white decor." Tradition says that the wall paintings above the wainscoting in the former dining room are the work of Mademoiselle Juliette Gambaro, a French artist who came to the United States under the sponsorship of the Thurlows.

The property at 202 South River Street was originally a part of lot number one as laid out in 1770. Lot number one was drawn by Jabez Sill who the historian Charles Miner says built the second house in Wilkes-Barre.⁷ Miner also recorded that the first marriage performed in the Wyoming Valley took place in the Sill house on this site.⁸ The marriage was between Nathan Denison and Sill's daughter Elizabeth.

Early in the nineteenth century the property was acquired by Rosewell Welles who served in the Pennsylvania

legislature in 1805 and 1806. George R. Bedford notes in Some Early Recollections that Welles was one of the four attorneys admitted to the bar at the formation of Luzerne County in 1787 and that he was married to one of the daughters of Zebulon Butler.⁹ The Welles house was described by Bedford as being one of the social centers of the town and that Harmon Blennerhasset, associated with the Burr conspiracy, was entertained here. The Welles house was razed for the construction of the Thurlow house.

¹Oscar J. Harvey and Ernest G. Smith A History of Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley (6 vol. Wilkes-Barre, Pa.: Smith-Bennett Company, 1930), VI, 382.

²Luzerne County Deed Records, Book 809, p. 279.

³Letter from Francis R. Kowsky, November 23, 1971.

⁴Letter from Francis R. Kowsky, November 23, 1971.

⁵Luzerne County Deed Records, Book 426, p. 314.

⁶"Dr. Marts to Dedicate Kirby Hall," Bucknell Beacon, October 14, 1941, p. 1.

⁷Harvey and Smith, II, 729.

⁸Harvey and Smith, II, 788.

⁹George R. Bedford Some Early Recollections (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.: E. B. Yordy Company, 1917), p. 33.



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Public Information

Kirby file

August 11, 1992

Mr. Mark Davis
Director of University Relations
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

Dear Mr. Davis:

The enclosed article, photocopied from the *Lafayette Alumnus*, Spring 1968, is the most complete account of the Kirby family at Lafayette to appear in print. The manuscript is a copy of an as-yet unpublished article prepared by the College's official historian for a forthcoming issue of our current magazine, *Lafayette*; it adds some post-1968 information about Allan P. Kirby.

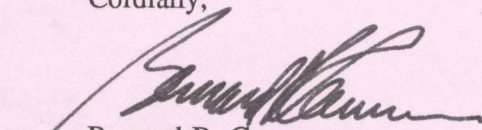
In addition to the Kirbys listed in the article, more recent members of the family at Lafayette have included Jesse Kirby Lee '76, daughter of Allan P., Jr. '53; and Fred M. Kirby III '80, S. Dillard Kirby '81, and Jefferson W. Kirby '84, sons of Fred M. Kirby II '42.

In addition to the major gifts listed in the magazine article, the family has made many other contributions to Lafayette through the F. M. Kirby Foundation. Among the more notable recent gifts have been the Chateau Chavaniac, Allan P. Kirby's Easton *pied-a-terre*, together with an endowment to maintain it, and an endowment to support campus beautification.

This information is provided for background use only and is not for publication.

I hope this is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Cordially,


Bernard R. Carman
Director

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AUG 14 1992

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OFFICE

Easton, Pennsylvania 18042-1773 (215) 250-5120
FAX (215) 250-5127

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2, 1941

KIRBY EDUCATIONAL HOME DEDICATED BY JR. COLLEGE

President of Bucknell University Delivers Principal Address—Colorful Ceremony at Homestead

One of Wilkes-Barre's most palatial homes, that of the late F. M. Kirby along River Common, was dedicated today as the Kirby Educational Home of Bucknell Junior College at formal ceremonies in the homestead on South River street.

The building, vacated since the passing of Wilkes-Barre's philanthropist and founder of the local chain of Woolworth & Company, was presented some months ago to the Bucknell institution by Allan P. Kirby in memory of Fred Morgan Kirby and Jessie Amelia Kirby, his parents.

Dr. Arnaud C. Marts, president of Bucknell University, gave the principal address and paid a glowing tribute to F. M. Kirby in dedicating the homestead as the third building donated to Bucknell Junior College for the furthering of education to young people of Wyoming Valley.

The address of welcome was given by Dr. Eugen S. Farley, director of Bucknell Junior College, in the presence of an overflow crowd of at least 300 students, faculty, trustees and friends of the local institution.

Laud Benefactor

Attorney Gilbert McClintock, chairman of the board of trustees of the Junior College, made the presentations and also paid tribute to the memory of F. M. Kirby who was his personal friend. Attorney Paul Bedford also spoke highly of the late benefactor, elaborating on Mr. Kirby as he knew him.

Excerpts from Dr. Mart's dedicating remarks follow:

"Westminster Abbey was an English Institution in which the memory of the noble sons of England was treasured from century to century.

"In America, we have no Westminster Abbey but in this Republic the American college serves a similar purpose of preserving the memories of our great men and women.

"We have 160 colleges in America which are named after men and women and they serve as eternal memories to them. Such institutions are: Harvard, named after John Harvard; Cornell, named after Elihu Yale; Cornell, named for Ezra Cornell; Vassar, named for Matthew Vassar; Bucknell, named for William Bucknell, and many others.

3 Local Memorials

"In addition we have thousands of memorial buildings on college campuses named for men and women who had vision and faith in the future of this Republic. Three such memorial buildings stand here on our own little campus of Bucknell Junior College. They are Conyng-ham Hall, Chase Hall, and now—Kirby Home for Education.

"These three names will be preserved and treasured for generations in connection with their service to immortal youth.

At this point of his address, Dr. Marts directed the dedication of the building to Allan Kirby, donor of the structure who was present to participate in the ceremonies.

"I do hereby publicly express the gratitude of Bucknell University to you, Mr. Allan Kirby, for your generous gift of this home of your father and mother and I also express the gratitude of Bucknell University to many other citizens of the Valley who have given the funds to convert this residence into an educational hall.

Dedicated to Youth

"I do hereby dedicate this lovely old residence to its new purpose in the service of the youth of Wyoming Valley. May God Bless all those who shall teach in this hall and may God bless each boy and girl who enters this door in the long years ahead. May each of them be inspired to the Bucknell way of life which is the way of intelligence, integrity and brotherhood."

In welcoming Dr. Marts, Allan Kirby, trustees, students and friends to the exercises today, Dr. Farley said:

"If you could judge the future by the past we have reason to be encouraged because the Bucknell Junior College has prospered and grown during a period that tested the strength of all colleges.

"This growth has been due to the generous support of friends of the college and came from two things—good will and a conviction that the job was worth doing."

Dr. Farley then expressed his appreciation to all whose help had made possible the growth of the college since its introduction in this city several years ago.

The program, as colorful a ceremony that would transpire on the campus of any college, was conducted on the first floor of the Kirby homestead which has been completely renovated and prepared for class rooms of the growing institution.

History of F. M. Kirby

An inspiring history of the life of F. M. Kirby as known to Attorney Paul Bedford was related by the local lawyer who described the late city resident as being "most loyal and possessing a keen mind and desire to help young people to help themselves.

"Having been a self-made man with no opportunity for a formal education, Mr. Kirby used a portion of his wealth to give educational opportunities to young people," Attorney Bedford stated.

Acceptance Speech

Attorney McClintock's remarks in regards to the acceptance of the Kirby homestead by the Board of Trustees of Bucknell Junior College follows:

"On behalf of the Trustees of Bucknell University Junior College, I desire to express their very deep gratitude to Mr. Kirby for giving to the Junior College the home of his father and mother, as a memorial to them, to be used permanently for the cultural advancement of the youth of our valley.

"As a friend of his father, I want to add a word of my own profound respect and admiration for what he stood for in business and public life in Wilkes-Barre, the State, and the Country, and it is a very real satisfaction to all of us that his house will be used as a very important part of the Junior College, which was in great need of just such a property as this.

"Mr. Allan Kirby was most generous and thoughtful in making this gift, and it is a great pleasure to us all that it was consummated in such a satisfactory and helpful way, and we sincerely hope that the use of it by the Junior College will fully justify that trust placed in this educational institution.

"A word of thanks also to the many generous citizens of the community who helped us make the changes necessary to use this house as a home for education."



Kirby historical marker dedicated TC-21-04

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Luzerne County Historical Society recently dedicated a historical marker to Fred Morgan Kirby, a Wilkes-Barre businessman. In the 1920s he donated land to the city of Wilkes-Barre to form Kirby Park. The marker is in front of Kirby Hall on the campus of Wilkes University on the corner of South and South River streets in Wilkes-Barre. From left: Robert Janosov, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum commission; Todd Vonderheid, Luzerne County commissioner; William Lewis, historical society president; Tim Gilmour, Wilkes University president; Grace Jessie Kirby Culbertson, descendant of F.M. Kirby; Thomas Leighton, mayor; and Wade Kirby, descendant of F.M. Kirby.



Marker notes life of philanthropist Kirby

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission yesterday dedicated a marker in recognition of Fred Morgan Kirby on the campus of Wilkes University in front of Kirby Hall, his former residence. The marker reads: "Fred Morgan Kirby (1861-1940) - Pioneer of the 5&10 cent store concept. He opened his first store in Wilkes-

Barre in 1884. In 1912, he merged his 96 retail stores with F.W. Woolworth to form the vast international retail chain. A philanthropist, he made significant gifts to institutions of higher education for the study of civil rights, and gifts for public health and recreation services in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He resided here from 1905 to 1940."

CONTINUED FROM...

F.M. Kirby's life discussed at society program

By Elizabeth Skrapits
Citizens' Voice Correspondent

CV 4-13-02
"Our nation was built by men of this ilk," Betsy Condrón said of Fred Morgan Kirby, the nationally-known businessman and philanthropist who was in many ways responsible for helping shape the Wyoming Valley.

Condrón gave a talk on "Fred Morgan Kirby's Rise to National Leadership and his Impact on the Wyoming Valley" at the 144th annual meeting of the Luzerne County Historical Society in the Henry Student Center at Wilkes University on Friday night.

Following an introduction by newly elected Historical Society president Dr. William V. Lewis, Jr., Condrón rose to the podium and evoked the dedication of Kirby Park on June 4, 1924.

Condrón asked the approximately 150 Historical Society members to imagine the scene in Kirby Park that day. There were 6,000 children marching with "Mr. Kirby" balloons, famous aviators sky-writing, McClusky's band playing, and a record crowd of 40,000 people present to celebrate the man who had built the park as his way of thanking Wilkes-Barre.

According to Condrón, Kirby commissioned the Olmsteads, famous landscape architects, "to design a place of rendezvous and recreation, because his Valley deserved the best."

Fred Morgan Kirby was born in New York State in 1861. He collected his savings and a \$100 loan from his father and left his job at W. H. Moore's store in Watertown, N.Y. in 1884 to open a store in Scranton with his friends F.W. and C. Sumner Woolworth.

Another five-and-dime store on East Market Street in Wilkes-Barre soon followed. Condrón said that despite F. M. Kirby's unimpressive take of \$12.86 on opening day, the store soon prospered. F. M. Kirby bought goods in large quantities for low



Fred M. Kirby

prices, and undercut his competitors. By the end of 1886 he bought Sumner Woolworth's half-interest in the store, and expanded it in 1892, two years after

**'GIVING
AWAY WHAT HE
EARNED WAS
AS IMPORTANT
TO HIM AS
EARNING WHAT
HE GAVE AWAY.'**

BETSY CONDRÓN
DISCUSSING KIRBY'S
LIFE

Condrón described the era in which F. M. Kirby flourished as Wilkes-Barre's Golden Age, when the Wyoming Valley was a thriving anthracite region, and he was one of its most shining citizens.

Wilkes-Barre's own Horatio Alger never had a college education, according to Condrón, but F. M. Kirby was granted an honorary Doctor of Law degree at Lafayette College in Easton in 1932. There he endowed a chair

in Civil Rights Law for the teaching of labor rights.

F. M. Kirby was the director of more than 20 large corporations, including lumber, insurance, and manufacturing, but he also found the time to be a community leader, involving himself with hospitals, schools, and the Masons, among many other organizations.

Philanthropy was always important to F. M. Kirby, as it would be to his descendants. He claimed it was a "good business policy," but the simple truth was that he enjoyed being generous.

"Giving away what he earned was as important to him as earning what he gave away," Condrón said.

F. M. Kirby married Pittston native Jessie Amelia Kirby in 1886, and they had three sons: Harold, who died in infancy; Sumner, who died in Europe during WWII, and Allan Price, who would follow in his father's footsteps.

Kirby Hall at Wilkes University was once the Kirby family home, purchased by F. M. Kirby in 1905. It was built in 1873 by Stephen Thurlow on what was the first lot on Wilkes-Barre's original 1770 town plan.

After F. M. Kirby's death in 1941, Allan Price donated the house to Wilkes, which was then Bucknell Junior College. In 1984 it was put on the National Register of Historic Places, and on this April 17 it is slated to receive a Pennsylvania State historical marker.

In closing, Condrón said of F.M. Kirby, "His life reflects the values on which our country was founded."

The Kirby legacy includes the Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Health Center, which was named after F.M. Morgan's mother; the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library, named after F. M. 's son Allan Price Kirby's wife; the Kirby Center for the Performing Arts; the Kirby Library at Wyoming Seminary; and of course, Kirby Park.

CITIZENS' VOICE V

T.L. 4-29-01

HISTORY

20 under 40 **40 people** 20 over 40 67

Allan Price KIRBY



1892 ▶ 1973

The son of Fred M. Kirby, Allan Price Kirby was born in Wilkes-Barre and attended Wyoming Seminary and Lawrenceville School. He went on to Lafayette College, where he became a trustee.

Kirby worked at many business interests in the Wilkes-Barre area and in New Jersey. He served as chairman of the Alleghany Corp., a railroad holding company that eventually gained control over the New York Central Railroad in 1954.

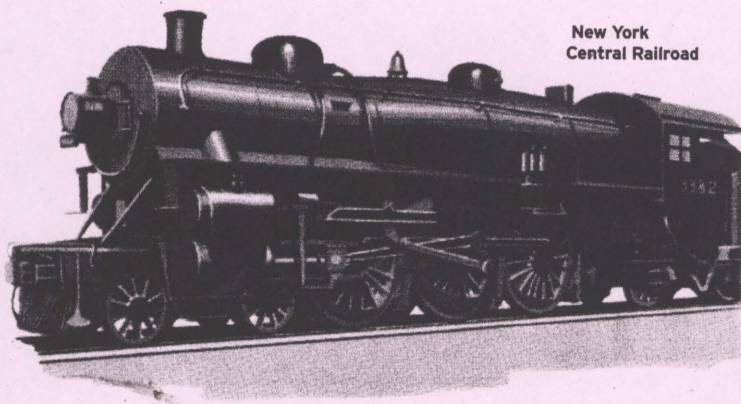
He served as president of the Kirby Foundation, founded by his father. Its assets totaled almost \$15 million at the time of his death. Allan Kirby made several

generous donations to Lafayette College, Lawrenceville School, Wilkes College and other religious, educational and charitable institutions.

Kirby married Marian Grace Sutherland, a West Pittston native, and had four children: Grace Jessie Kirby Culbertson, Fred Morgan Kirby II, Ann Sutherland Kirby and Allan Price Kirby Jr.

As a tribute to his father, Allan P. Kirby Jr. established the Allan P. Kirby Center for Enterprising and Entrepreneurship at 65 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, on the Wilkes University campus in 1993.

+



New York
Central Railroad

Wilkes University News

University Relations Office
Mark Davis, Director
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18766
Office (717) 831-4770 Fax (717) 824-2934
e-mail davis@wilkes1.wilkes.edu

SCULPTURES OF ENTREPRENEURS ADDED TO ALLAN P. KIRBY CENTER

WILKES-BARRE- Two prominent sculptures have been purchased for the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes University. The sculptures are busts of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison.

"These two busts of well know Americans are what I expect will be the beginnings of a collection of artwork to be lodged in the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship comprising portraits of early American entrepreneurs and scenes representing America's free enterprise system," said Allan P. Kirby, Jr of Mendam, New Jersey. He established the center and dedicated it to the memory of his late father.

The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship opened in 1993 . The gift memorialized the senior Kirby on the 100th anniversary of his birth. In addition to the Center, Allan Kirby, jr., endowed the "Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship." Dr. Jeffrey R. Alves, holds that title and

--MORE--

1ST ADD SCULPTURES ADDED TO ALLAN P. KIRBY CENTER

directs all of the activities of the Center and its students.

The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship is located on the Wilkes University campus at 65 South Street, Wilkes-Barre.

PHOTO: From left Dr. Christopher N. Breiseth, President, Wilkes University, and Allan P. Kirby Jr., Wilkes University Trustee

-30-

020298

WILKES-BARRE - Two new sculptures were purchased for the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes University. The sculptures, by David J. Lawrence, Jr., of the and Thomas E. Brown.

These two works, a steel and bronze sculpture by Lawrence, and a bronze sculpture by Brown, are the beginning of a collection of art to be housed in the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. The primary purpose of the American entrepreneurs and business representation, Lawrence's new sculpture, "The Entrepreneur," is a tribute to the spirit of the entrepreneur. The sculpture, which is a bronze and steel work, is a tribute to the spirit of the entrepreneur. The sculpture, which is a bronze and steel work, is a tribute to the spirit of the entrepreneur.

The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship opened in 1985. The gift was made by the senior Kirby in the 1980s. In addition to the Center, Allan Kirby, Jr., endorsed the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. The Kirby Center is a tribute to the spirit of the entrepreneur.

-MORE-

Third Kirby Generation Continues Local Interest

As the family fortune was started by F. M. Kirby, its care was placed into the hands of his son, Allan Pierce Kirby, who diversified and expanded its enterprise.

At the same time, he was continuing his interest in the cultural and education growth of Wyoming Valley. Married to the former Marian Sutherland of West Pittston, the couple left the area several decades ago to make their home in New Jersey.

The two male members of the family of the family who are providing the third generation of leadership are: Fred Morgan Kirby II and Allan Pierce Kirby Jr.

Morgan II is married to A. Walker Dillard. They are the parents of four children: Alice, Fred M. III, Dillard and Jefferson.

A graduate of Lafayette College and Harvard Business School, he is president of the Allegheny Corp., a director of F.W. Woolworth among many executive positions.

Allan Kirby Jr. is the father of five children: Jessie Ann, Allan P. III, Slater Baran, Corey and Milan Stanton.

He is president of the Liberty Square Investments, chairman of the executive committee of the Allegheny Corps.

The third generation members are active in the operations of the various Kirby Endowments which includes, the Episcopal House, the Kirby Health Center, Kirby Park, the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library.



F. M. KIRBY



ALLAN KIRBY



ALLAN KIRBY JR.



F. M. KIRBY II

Kirby Family's

dedicated to Angeline Kirby.

The acres of land on the west bank of the Susquehanna River were donated to the City of Wilkes-Barre by the Kirby family as a recreation and cultural site for the community.

Fred and Jessie Kirby had two sons — Allan and Sumner, the latter died in early manhood.

Allan Kirby carried on in the family's enterprises and it was during his later years, that the family moved to New Jersey to be closer to the many national and international interest they held including the Allegheny Corp.

Allan Kirby had married Marian Sutherland of West Pittston; they had four children — Fred M. Morgan II, Grace Jessie Kirby Culbertson, Allan P. Kirby II and Ann Kirby Kirby.

When the Allan Kirby family left the region, they gave their magnificent fieldstone home at Glen Summit to the Episcopal Diocese. There are 26 rooms in the house on 11 acres of land and each room is furnished with the original family pieces. It is used for religious,

(Continued from Page 1, Section 2)

charitable and educational functions.

Recently four grandchildren of F.M. Kirby built the Marion Sutherland Kirby Library at Mountaintop. This is dedicated to the memory of their mother.

Last year, when funds were sought for the Center for Performing Arts, F.M. Kirby and his family contributed a major portion to the renovations and maintenance of the Center.

With each generation, the Kirby interests and holdings have expanded. They are major stockholders in American Express. They had railroad and bank interests.

An unassuming family with strong religious ties, philanthropic responsibilities, they continue to play a major role in the economic growth and development of the United States. The Kirby family ranks with the Mellons of Pittsburgh, the Rockefellers of New York, in their civic dedication and responsibility.

Despite their rise, they have never forgotten the community where the first family five and cent store was opened.



ALUMNI PHONATHON — The 1987 Wilkes College Alumni Phonathon has added eight Vice-Chairmen to its leadership team. The Vice-Chairmen, whose names were announced at a recent organizational meeting, are: William V. Leandri '69; Robert Matley '73; Sandra Piccone '77; Gary Taroli '76; Marvin Antinnes, John Baron '75; Fred Lohman '76; and Andrea Petrasek '69. The Vice-Chairmen were appointed by Phonathon Chairman Lee Ciarmatori '72. The 1987 Wilkes Alumni Phonathon begins on Monday, Sept. 28, and continues through Thursday, Oct. 8. The next meeting for Phonathon volunteers will include Vice-Chairmen and Captains, and is scheduled for Wednesday. At a meeting held to discuss Phonathon strategies are, left to right, seated: Ciarmatori, Richard E. Hendershott, Wilkes Director of Annual Giving; and Piccone. Standing: Leandri, Anthony J. Shipula '78, Wilkes Director of Alumni Relations; Matley; and Christopher N. Breiseth, Wilkes College President.

Open House

An Open House, sponsored by the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Inc., will take place on Sunday September 20, 1987 at 1:00 p.m. There will be tours of the fire hall and equipment, along with food and demonstrations. This is part of the 60th Anniversary of the fire company.

The event will take place at the fire hall, Main Street, Dallas. The public is cordially invited to attend.

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WIC



Kirby Family's Indelible Legacy

By LIBBY BRENNAN
Staff Writer

As the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts prepares for its first anniversary celebrations this week, the name of the center brings to mind the close association that the Kirby family has had with Wyoming Valley.

In almost every way, the Kirbys have touched the lives of members of this community. The Kirby Health Center alone has provided the facilities where health services are provided; where records from birth to death are kept; where the ill and infirm may receive treatments.

Although now residents of New Jersey, the inextricable bond that binds the scions of the vast Kirby financial empire with this locality is unending.

The familiar buildings such as the Kirby Education Building at Wilkes College, the Kirby Episcopal Home at Glen Summit, the Kirby Health Center, the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library at Mountaintop, Kirby Park

are only a few of the tangible contributions that have been made to the community through the generosity of three generations of the Kirby Family.

Unlike the early economically affluent coal barons who left the community after they amassed a fortune, the Kirby family, who were merchants, returned to the community many fold what it had given them.

The rise of the Kirby family is a romantic tale. Starting with F.M. Kirby who was born in New York state and whose rise to become one of the wealthiest men in the United States is exciting in itself.

The first records of the family demonstrate that there was an adventurous genius in the family strain. The father of F.M. Kirby traveled around the Cape Horn in a sailing vessel in his efforts to get to California in search of gold. He returned to New York state to become a farmer.

But the free spirit and dreams of the father were realized in his son.

When Fred Morgan Kirby was 15, he became a clerk

with the Moore and Smith dry goods store in Watertown, N.Y. Among his fellow employees were F.W. and C. S. Woolworth, with whom he was to become associated in the F.W. Woolworth Five and Dime Stores.

It was this association that resulted in a new type of enterprise, the five and dime stores. The idea was brought into being by Kirby and Woolworth when they learned that a sale of unmovable items on a special table for five cents was a terrific success. Thus the nucleus of a business was formed.

After eight years, Kirby had saved \$500 and went into partnership with C. Sumner Woolworth of Scranton and the famed chain came into existence.

When the full merger with Woolworth became a Fiat Accompli, more than 1,000 stores were involved and the assets worth over \$65 million.

The only Woolworth store that still retains the Kirby name is located on South Main St., Wilkes-Barre.

The charisma of the Kirby family was felt

everywhere from bank board rooms, to Wall St. clubs, to ivy covered walls of great universities to almost every philanthropic endeavor.

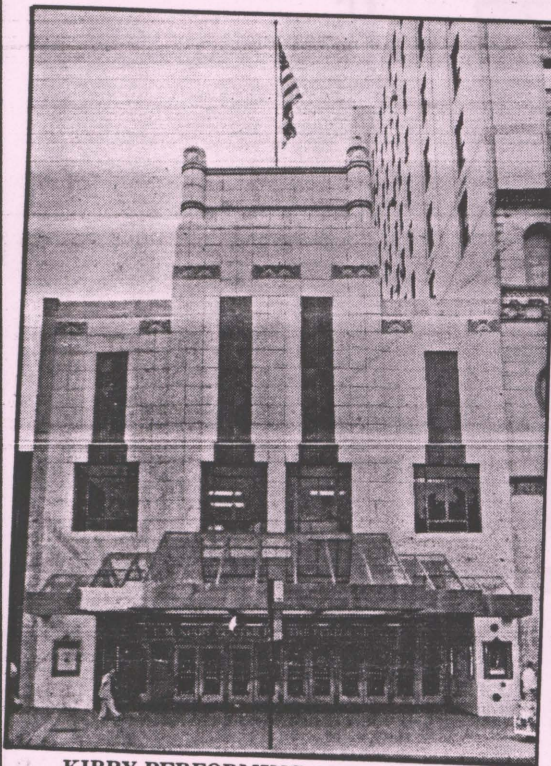
The red stone mansion which Fred M. Kirby and his wife Jessie occupied on the corner of South River and South Streets was built of native red stone from the Hendler Quarry at Mountaintop. The site was the former home of Col. Dennison who married Elizabeth Still, the first marriage in Wyoming Valley.

The family home was turned over to Bucknell Junior College in 1931 and became its first library. The magnificent woodwork, the majestic staircase with its stained glass windows now serves as a classroom for the students.

The great love F.M. Kirby bore for his mother resulted in the construction and maintenance of the Kirby Health Center on North Franklin St. — one of the finest medical facilities in the Northeastern United States. The stone and white marble structure is

(Continued on Page 5, Section 2)

(Mark Moran Photo)



KIRBY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



KIRBY EPISCOPAL HOUSE

F M K/ Jessie

ALAN Sumner

ALAN Marian

FRED Grace Allan Anne

and 10

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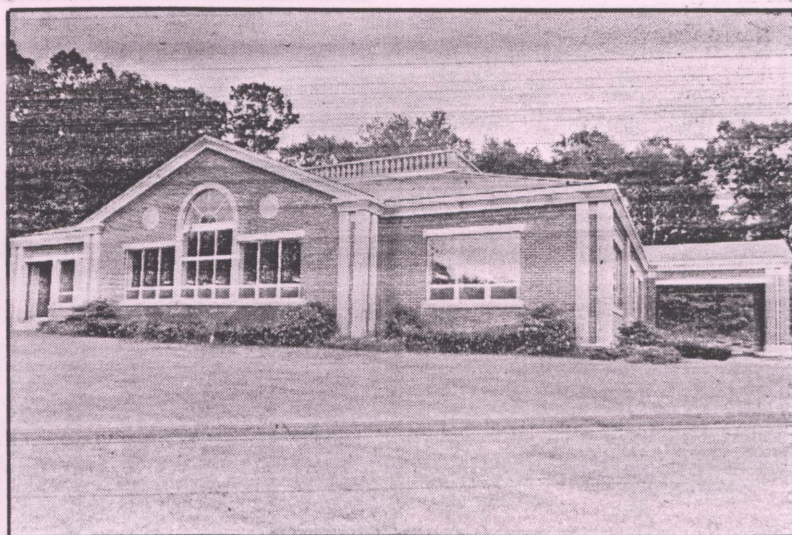
KIRBY EDUCATION CENTER



ANGELINE KIRBY HEALTH CENTER



KIRBY PARK



MARIAN SUTHERLAND KIRBY LIBRARY

KIRBY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Switch

T.L. 8-30-86

Paramount is renamed; It's now The F.M. Kirby Center

By JOE BUTKIEWICZ
Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE — Forget the Paramount Civic Center: Call it The F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts.

The civic center has been renamed to honor Fred Morgan Kirby II, a Wilkes-Barre native, as well as his father, the late Allan P. Kirby, and late grandfather, Fred Morgan Kirby, the man who founded his 5-and-10-cent chain store in this city.

But Kirby accepted the honor only on the condition that the project accept a donation of \$300,000 from the F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. The pledge is accompanied by a contribution of an additional \$100,000 from the F.W. Woolworth Co.

Editorial

— Page 6A

More contributions pour in

— Page 4B

The combination \$400,000 pledge to the civic center fundraising campaign — the largest contribution to date — will bring the total pledged to \$2.9 million, nearing a goal of \$3.3 million.

Kirby is president of the foundation and serves on the board of directors of the Woolworth Co. as well as The Pittston Co. and the American Express Co. He is chairman and chief and executive officer of Alleghany Corp. in New York City.

(See SWITCH, Page 10A)

Kirby friends, relatives comment

WILKES-BARRE — Although the Kirbys left Wilkes-Barre almost 50 years ago, the family maintains a strong presence through numerous contributions, such as a gift to the civic center project, and close ties with relatives and friends.

Friends and relatives of Fred Morgan Kirby II offered these comments on the dedication of Luzerne County's civic center after Kirby, his father and his grandfather of the same name:

■ "I'm very happy and pleased that Fred is still interested in the Wyoming Valley, where he grew up, and the Kirby family is still supporting it, going back to his grandfather," said William L. Conyngham, who, along with Kirby, made up two-fifths of the 1934 graduating class of the all-male Wilkes-Barre Academy.

"I think it's kind of remarkable he shows so much interest in the place that was scene to his boyhood. There's so many things (the Kirby family) contributed; we kind of take it for granted," said Conyngham, 65, of Chase, secretary/treasurer of Eastern Pennsylvania Supply Co. and Hillside Farms.

Conyngham accompanied Boscov to Morristown, N.J., when the latter outlined the plans for the civic center.

"Fred's really rather kind of a private person. He's not shy but ... he never enjoyed the spotlight," said Conyngham, recalling also: "He was a great ladies man and frequently en-



A photo of Fred Morgan Kirby II

tertained them at The Paramount."

■ "Fred and I have been good friends over the years. I only have good things to say about him because I don't know anything bad," recalled Charles Epstein, a boyhood friend of Morgan and owner of the Liberty Throwing Co., Inc.

■ "I think it's a fine thing and certainly worthy of the many contributions Fred M. Kirby and his family have made in Wyoming Valley," said S. Keene Mitchell, 71, an attorney, Kingston resident and cousin of Morgan. "(It's) well merited by the Kirby family."

— Joe Butkiewicz

Switch

(Continued from Page 1A)

The announcements were made late Friday afternoon during a press conference in the mezzanine lobby of the 48-year-old theater on Public Square by Al Boscov, chairman of the center's board of directors.

"About three months ago, the board of directors of the civic center started a search for a permanent name for the facility," said Boscov.

"In my travels through the community to raise money to make the performing arts center a reality, I discovered one family that had physically left the community 50 years ago that had left its heart behind ... the Kirby family."

Family donations to the area through the Kirby Foundation include The Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Health Center, the Fred M. and Jessie A. Kirby Episcopal House, the Marion Sutherland Kirby Memorial Library, Kirby Hall at Wilkes College and, of course, Kirby Park, as well as donations to numerous area charities.

Boscov said because of the family's continued philanthropy, the board intended to name the theater after Kirby even if the foundation didn't make a contribution.

In a phone interview from his office in Morristown, N.J., shortly before he left for vaca-

tion, Kirby said: "I was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre and have a great deal of sentimental interest for the community and feel that the cultural opportunities that would be available as a result of having a theater of this kind would fill an important void in the life of the community."

"It would raise greatly the standard of living for a large number of the local people."

The 66-year-old Kirby said he visits Glen Summit in Fairview Township about twice a year and Wilkes-Barre about once annually. He said he hoped to attend the grand opening on Friday, Sept. 19 with his wife and perhaps several of his four children.

"I remember it well," Kirby said of the former cinema. "It was a lovely theater ... probably a much nicer motion picture theater — by far — than the bulk of those I've been in."

His grandfather, Fred Morgan Kirby, founded a 5-and-10 cent store in Wilkes-Barre in 1884, developing a chain of stores which merged with the Woolworth Co. in 1912 to form F.W. Woolworth.

Born in Wilkes-Barre in 1919, Fred M. Kirby II attended the Wilkes-Barre Academy, Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, Lafayette College and, after serving in Europe and the Gulf of Mexico during World

War II, attended Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

While he was attending Lawrenceville, his father Allan P. Kirby moved the family to Morristown.

The change from the Paramount will be the third name for the former movie palace, which opened in 1938 as the Comerford Theatre, named for cinema-chain magnate Michael Edward Comerford who grew up in Larksville.

The theater was renamed when it was transferred to the Paramount Co. after the federal government forced divestiture of the Comerford chain. The art deco cinema was subsequently owned by several companies before closing in 1977.

Boscov began the drive to restore the theater late last year, and while the cost estimates have doubled, his fundraising has kept pace. He said Friday that the building and renovation will cost \$2.6 million, and interior furnishings and equipment \$650,000.

He said he hopes to raise another \$200,000 — bringing the total to be raised to \$3.3 million — to cover interest on loans and anticipated individual and business donations that were scheduled for a period of years and might not be met.

The Kirbys



BERNIE WALKO/RALPH DEWITT COLLECTION

Fred M. Kirby



THE NEW YORK TIMES/LARRY C. MORRIS

Fred M. Kirby II

Through numerous benevolent contributions, the Fred Morgan Kirby family has left a lasting presence here in areas as diverse as health care, education, religion, recreation and now, the fine arts.

Fred Morgan Kirby II, president of the F. M. Kirby Foundation, has continued his family's tradition with a generous contribution to a civic arts center that will foster a new cultural era in the already growing, thriving community of Northeastern Pennsylvania. It will bear his name.

The former movie palace is also dedicated to Mr. Kirby and to the memory of his grandfather, Fred Morgan Kirby.

As The F.M Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, the theater will host entertainment as diverse as the fabric of Wyoming Valley itself.

"I was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre and have a great deal of sentimental interest for the community and feel that the cultural opportunities that would be available to the community as a result of having a theater of this kind would fill an important void in the life of the community," Mr. Kirby said in presenting the gift.

The inscription on the Kirby coat of arms is "Deeds not words," a maxim the family has honored since Fred Morgan Kirby secured Wilkes-Barre a place in history when he founded his chain of 5¢ & 10¢ stores in the city's downtown.

From Kirby through his son Allan P. Kirby, grandson Fred Morgan Kirby II and other members of the family, the Valley has been recipient of the peaceful expanse of Kirby Park, a center for private and public health services, the Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Memorial Health Center, the rural respite of the Kirby Episcopal House in Glen Summit, the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library in Mountaintop and the Kirby Hall of Wilkes College.

Words cannot do justice to such munificent deeds.

"The Kirby family physically left this area almost 50 years ago, but they left their heart in Wilkes-Barre.

"It amazes me that year after year the Kirbys make major contributions to the community to make it a better and more exciting place to live.

"The board felt it was fitting to name the theater after F.M. Kirby II as well as his grandfather, the late F.M. Kirby, and the Kirby family so that the community would let the Kirbys know how much we appreciate their concern not just for this theater, but for the entire Wyoming Valley."

— Albert Boscov

Ann Kirby FW

Kirby Foundation aids Wilkes drive

WILKES-BARRE — The most recent gift of \$231,500 to Wilkes College from the F.M. Kirby Foundation Inc. brings the Foundation's total contribution to \$743,500 in support of the Wilkes Tomorrow Campaign.

Wilkes President Christopher N. Breiseth, in announcing the gift, said, "I speak for the entire college as I express our deep gratitude to the F.M. Kirby Foundation for this latest, most generous gift. This commitment to the strengthening of Wilkes College is yet another expression of the Kirby family's loyalty to the Wyoming Valley."

The F.M. Kirby Foundation is a family foundation, established in 1931 by businessman Fred Morgan Kirby in Wilkes-Barre, and managed by successive generations of his family. It is currently based in Morristown, N.J.

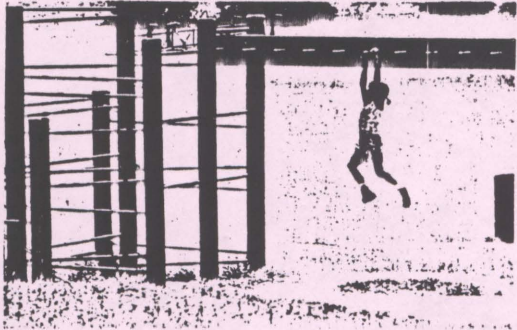
Grants usually are reflective of personal interest by one or more members of the Kirby family who are, or have been, active in the affairs of the Foundation.

According to Tom Hadzor, Vice-President for Development at Wilkes and director of the campaign, the success of the campaign is unparalleled in the history of the school.

Hadzor said, "We launched this \$18 million campaign with some trepidation because it was more than we had ever asked in support from the many friends of Wilkes. We are indeed grateful for the enormous response we have had. Leadership gifts such as those from the Kirby

Foundation serve as an inspiration to all."

The campaign is a five-year effort and has three main objectives: \$5,500,000 for a capital construction project, The Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center now nearing completion and to be dedicated on Feb. 17; \$2,500,000 to support the endowment; \$10 million in support of annual operations. Capital gifts and pledges in excess of \$7.1 million toward the \$8 million goal have been reached since the campaign was launched just over four years ago.



TIMES LEADER/CAROLYN BAUMAN

Kirby Park — The Kirbys remembered the area's children by donating this vast playground for their enjoyment.



TIMES LEADER/CAROLYN BAUMAN

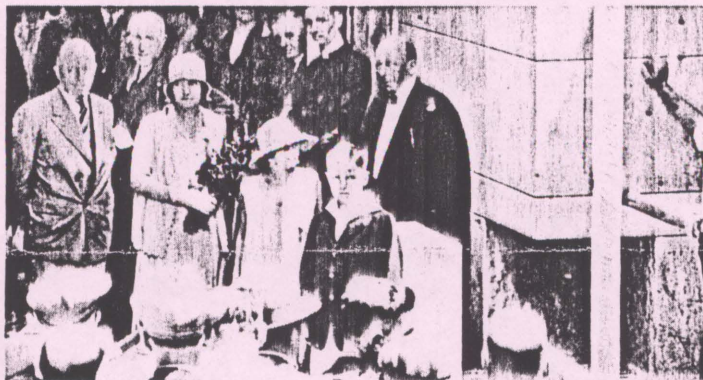
A recent gift — The Marian Sutherland Kirby Library, 35 Kirby Ave., Mountaintop, is one of the most recent gifts from the Kirby Foundation through the Kirby family, including Fred M. Kirby II, Allan P. Kirby Jr., Mrs. James L. Kirby Jr. and Mrs. John H. Culberston.

A family to be remembered —

The Kirbys have left a legacy of generosity and caring

Fred Morgan Kirby, 1861-1940, was a merchant and banker who opened a new page in mercantile history through founding five-and-dime stores. His first was in Wilkes-Barre in 1884 at 172 E. Market St.

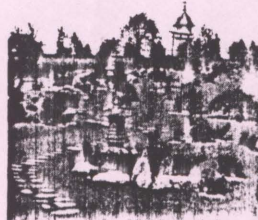
Since then, he and his family have never failed to remember this area through unmeasurable donations to charity and religious institutions and sizable financial gifts to facilities now bearing the family name. The Valley will never know the full extent of this family's giving.



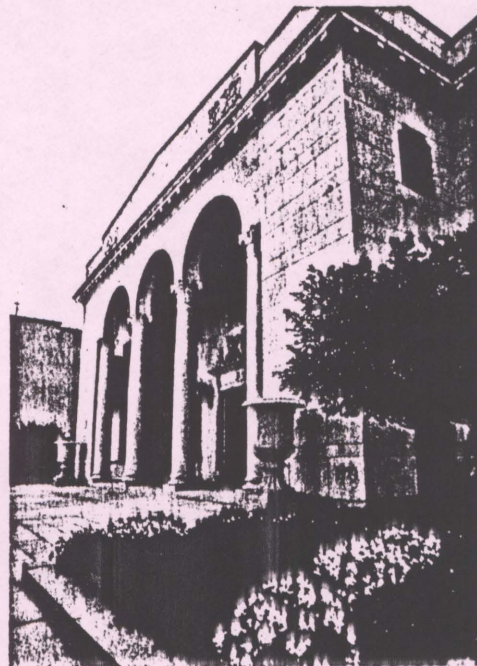
BERNIE WALKO/RALPH DEWITT COLLECTION

The Kirbys — Shown during the 1931 dedication of the Kirby Health Center, the Kirbys are, from left, Mr. and Mrs. Allan P. Kirby; Grace Jessie Kirby; a very young F.M. Kirby II and, standing behind the cornerstone, the family patriarch, F.M. Kirby.

Health and respite — The Kirby family has given much to the area, including the Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Memorial Health Center on North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, at right, and the beautiful Kirby Episcopal House in Glen Summit. The gardens of the house are shown below as they appeared in the early part of this century. In donating the health center, Kirby requested it be named after his mother because, "When you see the building and think about it, please remember it is erected to commemorate the memory of a woman who had one of the most beautiful Christian characters the world has ever seen."



BERNIE WALKO
RALPH DEWITT COLLECTION



TIMES LEADER/RICHARD SABATURA

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2, 1941

KIRBY EDUCATIONAL HOME DEDICATED BY JR. COLLEGE

President of Bucknell University Delivers Principal Address—Colorful Ceremony at Homestead

One of Wilkes-Barre's most palatial homes, that of the late F. M. Kirby along River Common, was dedicated today as the Kirby Educational Home of Bucknell Junior College at formal ceremonies in the homestead on South River street.

The building, vacated since the passing of Wilkes-Barre's philanthropist and founder of the local chain of Woolworth & Company, was presented some months ago to the Bucknell institution by Allan P. Kirby in memory of Fred Morgan Kirby and Jessie Amelia Kirby, his parents.

Dr. Arnaud C. Marts, president of Bucknell University, gave the principal address and paid a glowing tribute to F. M. Kirby in dedicating the homestead as the third building donated to Bucknell Junior College for the furthering of education to young people of Wyoming Valley.

The address of welcome was given by Dr. Eugen S. Farley, director of Bucknell Junior College, in the presence of an overflow crowd of at least 300 students, faculty, trustees and friends of the local institution.

Laud Benefactor

Attorney Gilbert McClintock, chairman of the board of trustees of the Junior College, made the presentations and also paid tribute to the memory of F. M. Kirby who was his personal friend. Attorney Paul Bedford also spoke highly of the late benefactor, elaborating on Mr. Kirby as he knew him.

Excerpts from Dr. Mart's dedicating remarks follow:

"Westminster Abbey was an English Institution in which the memory of the noble sons of England was treasured from century to century.

"In America, we have no Westminster Abbey but in this Republic the American college serves a similar purpose of preserving the memories of our great men and women.

"We have 160 colleges in America which are named after men and women and they serve as eternal memories to them. Such institutions are: Harvard, named after John Harvard; Cornell, named after Elihu Yale; Cornell, named for Ezra Cornell; Vassar, named for Matthew Vassar; Bucknell, named for William Bucknell, and many others.

3 Local Memorials

"In addition we have thousands of memorial buildings on college campuses named for men and women who had vision and faith in the future of this Republic. Three such memorial buildings stand here on our own little campus of Bucknell Junior College. They are Conyngnam Hall, Chase Hall, and now—Kirby Home for Education.

"These three names will be preserved and treasured for generations in connection with their service to immortal youth.

At this point of his address, Dr. Marts directed the dedication of the building to Allan Kirby, donor of the structure who was present to participate in the ceremonies.

"I do hereby publicly express the gratitude of Bucknell University to you, Mr. Allan Kirby, for your generous gift of this home of your father and mother and I also express the gratitude of Bucknell University to many other citizens of the Valley who have given the funds to convert this residence into an educational hall.

Dedicated to Youth

"I do hereby dedicate this lovely old residence to its new purpose in the service of the youth of Wyoming Valley. May God Bless all those who shall teach in this hall and may God bless each boy and girl who enters this door in the long years ahead. May each of them be inspired to the Bucknell way of life which is the way of intelligence, integrity and brotherhood."

In welcoming Dr. Marts, Allan Kirby, trustees, students and friends to the exercises today, Dr. Farley said:

"If you could judge the future by the past we have reason to be encouraged because the Bucknell Junior College has prospered and grown during a period that tested the strength of all colleges.

"This growth has been due to the generous support of friends of the college and came from two things—good will and a conviction that the job was worth doing."

Dr. Farley then expressed his appreciation to all whose help had made possible the growth of the college since its introduction in this city several years ago.

The program, as colorful a ceremony that would transpire on the campus of any college, was conducted on the first floor of the Kirby homestead which has been completely renovated and prepared for class rooms of the growing institution.

History of F. M. Kirby

An inspiring history of the life of F. M. Kirby as known to Attorney Paul Bedford was related by the local lawyer who described the late city resident as being "most loyal and possessing a keen mind and desire to help young people to help themselves.

"Having been a self-made man with no opportunity for a formal education, Mr. Kirby used a portion of his wealth to give educational opportunities to young people," Attorney Bedford stated.

Acceptance Speech

Attorney McClintock's remarks in regards to the acceptance of the Kirby homestead by the Board of Trustees of Bucknell Junior College follows:

"On behalf of the Trustees of Bucknell University Junior College, I desire to express their very deep gratitude to Mr. Kirby for giving to the Junior College the home of his father and mother, as a memorial to them, to be used permanently for the cultural advancement of the youth of our valley.

"As a friend of his father, I want to add a word of my own profound respect and admiration for what he stood for in business and public life in Wilkes-Barre, the State, and the Country, and it is a very real satisfaction to all of us that his house will be used as a very important part of the Junior College, which was in great need of just such a property as this.

"Mr. Allan Kirby was most generous and thoughtful in making this gift, and it is a great pleasure to us all that it was consummated in such a satisfactory and helpful way, and we sincerely hope that the use of it by the Junior College will fully justify that trust placed in this educational institution.

"A word of thanks also to the many generous citizens of the community who helped us make the changes necessary to use this house as a home for education."

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Mailer Table Now at Wilkes

A table that once graced Norman and Norris Mailer's dining room is now in use at Wilkes University.

The Mailers used the large chrome-and-glass table for more than a decade in their Provincetown, Mass., home. It is now in Kirby Hall, home of the English Department.

"It's a fabled table and could tell many tales if it could speak," said Dr. J. Michael Lennon, vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Lennon and his wife, Donna, are old friends of the Mailers.

The table was prominently featured in Mr. Mailer's 1984 film, "Tough Guys Don't Dance."

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TIMELINE OF KIRBY HALL

- 1765 (approx) A log cabin is erected by the owner of the property, Jabez Sill.
Site is listed as lot # 1 in original town plan.
- 1769 First marriage in Wyoming Valley takes place in Sill cabin.
- 1810 (approx) Property is sold to Roswell Welles for 200 pounds.
House is erected.
- 1831 Judge Welles dies. Property is sold.
- 1831-1872 Property passes through several ownerships.
- 1872 Lot is acquired by Stephen Thurlow Family.
- 1873-74 Present structure is designed by Architect Frederick Withers
and erected.
- 1875 Thurlow Family occupies house.
- 1880 House is sold to J. Frank Lee for \$40,000.00.
- 1886 Lee sells house to Reuben J. Flick for \$42,500.00.
- 1905 Flick sells house to F.M. Kirby for \$55,100.00.
- 1940 F.M. Kirby dies. House is donated to Bucknell University Junior
College by son Allan.
- 1940-1968 House is used as art center, library, classroom building, and
President's residence.
- 1969-present House is occupied by Foreign Language and English Departments,
now only English Department.

COPY of ORIGINAL!

Community Kudos

Noteworthy scholastic and community-oriented achievements are listed below.

■ **Ryan Sirak**, a senior guard on the Northwest Area High School's basketball team, was named an All-Star at the Keystone State Invitational Basketball Camp held at Albright College, Reading.

■ **Wilkes University** received a large chrome and glass table from author Norman Mailer and his wife, Norris. The table will be used as a seminar table in Kirby Hall, home of the school's English department. T.L. 9-19-99

MANSION

Continued from 1D

place.

Once complete, the bed-and-breakfast could boast as many as six or seven guest rooms with Matteo living in one room.

A zoning variance must be awarded before all of the guest rooms may be utilized.

The rooms will vary in price, depending on size, but all will have a private kitchenette — excluding stove — and some type of special “old-world charm,” including Murphy beds, old-fashioned radiators, pitched ceilings from dormers and palatial windows.

Matteo, who has completed some of the renovations himself, also plans on tearing out the commercial carpeting and laying Victorian rugs. Greek-patterned flooring also will be continued throughout the rooms. Original shutters found in the mansion's attic were just one of the hid-



A detail from the wall of Stegmaier Mansion.

den bonuses Matteo encountered — and plans to use.

Matteo says that when he purchased the building his knees were knocking. A week later, the terrorist attacks on America rattled his nerves more.

“I thought, I just bought the mansion of my dreams and Armageddon is here.”

Matteo persevered and remains confident the mayor and local busi-

TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/S.JOHN WILKIN/PHOTO

nesses will live up to their promises to continue to revitalize the city.

“I would hope they would all unite and sing off the same page,” he said. “This is not about personal agendas. We’re at a turning point.

“I am taking a big risk here, but the city seems to be behind me 100 percent.”

Kalen Churcher, a Times Leader staff writer, may be reached at 831-7329.

A new life is planned for Historic Stegmaier Mansion

The Stegmaier Mansion, on the corner of South Franklin and Ross streets in Wilkes-Barre, will someday house a downtown bed-and-breakfast.



Renovating our history

By KALEN CHURCHER
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WILKES-BARRE — Standing in the entrance and gazing three stories to an intricately constructed and refinished stained-glass skylight, it's not hard to feel the history that consumes the more than century-old building.

Built in 1870 by locally renowned architect Missouri B. Houpt, the building has had its share of familiar owners, including Houpt, Abram Nesbitt and Frederick J. Stegmaier, whose family owned and operated the Stegmaier Brewery in Wilkes-Barre.

Joe Matteo, a pianist who says that he has traveled throughout Europe giving performances, purchased the building for \$205,000 from

Register of Historic Places by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, the building is part of the River Street Historic District of Luzerne County under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Still under renovation, the building boasts a heavy, original Gothic influence between its walls. The pieced tiling in the building's entrance and intricate, hand-carved woodwork could not be replicated today for lack of money and skill.

"The walnut woodwork is of the same heaviness as the Kirby Mansion (on South River Street)," Matteo said. "I don't think you have a craftsman around today who would know how to do this, because it's not taught."

Amazingly, the mansion and its charm were not destroyed by four floods,



Graysha Harris of Tunkhannock in September. Within the next few years, the Wilkes-Barre resident plans on turning the historic structure into a bed-and-breakfast.

"One of my dreams was to buy the Harry Packer Mansion in Jim Thorpe," said Matteo, seated in a first-floor nook. "Granted, Wilkes-Barre is not Jim Thorpe, but because we're the county seat, we have the potential to do something here."

An antiques collector for all of his adult life, Matteo, who declined to give his age, has scattered his treasures throughout the Stegmaier Mansion, although eventually all photographs and paintings must be removed to hang Victorian wallpaper. But the real treasures are the building's delicate intricacies.

Cataloged in the National

including the 1972 Agnes flood. As the original structure changed into apartments, however, partitions were added, altering its original design. Matteo hopes to eventually return the building to its original state, which includes a wrap-around porch and estate fencing with Victorian gates. City assistance has been promised to help with the porch construction, Matteo said. Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom McGroarty did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Returning to a time of chivalry, the front of the building will house an open gentlemen's and ladies' parlor, separated by a long table. The ladies' parlor also will be the music room, complete with a piano — Matteo's first passion — and a floor-to-ceiling fire-

See MANSION, Page 4D



Floor-to-ceiling fireplaces are common throughout the Victorian home. Once renovated, a ladies' parlor, housing a music room, will stretch across half of the house's front. A gentlemen's parlor will cover the remaining half.



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTOS/S. JOHN WILKIN

Nestled high above the mansion's floor, a stained-glass skylight tops off the building's charm.



Intricate moldings surrounding the outside of the building have been carefully painted in a trio of colors to blend with the rest of the building.

Joe Matteo purchased the Stegmaier Mansion in September. Since then he has worked on fulfilling his dream of restoring the structure and opening a bed-and-breakfast.