

The Beacon - Features
Issue: 10/03/02

Weckesser Hall Provides Glimpse into Rich W-B History

By Bridget Giunta

This is the second article in a series that features the historical buildings that make up the rich architectural, social, economic and political fabric of Wilkes University's campus.

Like the historical foundations on which the campus of Wilkes University was built, Weckesser Hall has gone through many transformations through the years.

According to Historical Landmarks on the Wilkes Campus by Ronald Andrews, Frederick J. Weckesser bought the property on which Weckesser Hall now stands in 1914 from the family of Andrew J. Davis. Frederick Weckesser was born in Clayton, New York and moved to Wilkes-Barre around the turn of the century.

Coincidentally, the Weckesser and Kirby family names were intertwined long before they become part of the Wilkes community. When Weckesser moved to Wilkes-Barre, he worked for F.M. Kirby at his popular five-and-ten cent store in Wilkes-Barre, F. M. Kirby and Company. In 1912, Kirby merged this business with others, including Frank W. Woolworth and created the F.W. Woolworth Company. After this merger, Weckesser took the position of District Manager at the Wilkes-Barre branch of Woolworth's.

Now in a position of power in the Woolworth Company, Weckesser hired New York architect Charles H.P. Gilbert to build a residence for his family on the property on what is now called South Franklin Street. Gilbert was also the architect of Woolworth's home, which may be why Weckesser chose Gilbert's services.

Between 1914 and 1916, Gilbert skillfully constructed the three-story mansion from Indiana limestone and modeled it in the Beaux-Arts style of architecture. Weckesser Hall is one of the only buildings in Wilkes-Barre that stands as an example of this style, which was popularized in the United States before World War I.

Ronald Andrews, author of Historical Landmarks on the Wilkes Campus explains, "The exterior [of Weckesser Hall] has a strong feeling of verticality to it, especially the center bays of the façade...The interior trim is eclectic in style with Gothic, Neo-Classical, Baroque, and Oriental designs present."

Through the years, the heavy wrought-iron doors of Weckesser have welcomed many people, first the friends and family of the Weckesser family, and more recently the students and administration of Wilkes University.

Upon Mrs. Weckesser's death in 1956, Wilkes obtained Weckesser Hall as a needed addition to the growing campus. Along with the mansion, Wilkes acquired the garage, which is known as the Weckesser Annex. From 1964 to 1967, Weckesser Hall was used as a women's residence hall.

According to The Wilkes University Historical Atlas, written by Harold E. Cox, Professor of History and Director of Wilkes University, "...administrative functions had outgrown Chase Hall...This problem was resolved by the gradual conversion of...Weckesser Hall from a woman's residence hall into the main administration building, a process completed in mid-1967."

Like the majority of the historic buildings that are now part of the Wilkes campus, Weckesser's past glitters with beautiful valuables and decor.

The first floor of the mansion has housed a massive wooden buffet, two valuable Chinese tapestries, a Grandfather's clock, original artwork, and a music room. The grand staircase is carved from all natural wood and adds to the intricate design of the woodwork throughout the house. Now, the first floor is used for offices, a reception area, and conference rooms.

On the second floor, there were originally three bedrooms with bathrooms, maid's quarters, and a dressing room.

Dr. Maravene Loeschke, Provost, whose office is now on the second floor of Weckesser, explains her relationship with the exquisite building, "I love being in Weckesser. Often I picture generations of families living their lives in these rooms and up and down these staircases. I picture Thanksgiving dinners in what is now our conference room. I understand that my office used to be the bedroom of one of Mrs. Weckesser's sisters. I like to imagine her waking up each morning looking at Franklin Street and think what it must have been like to live there."

Continuing up the intricately carved staircase to the third floor, guests of the past would have enjoyed a lavish, hard wood floor ballroom. In addition, there was an extra room that was mainly reserved for guests.

Located at 170 South Franklin Street, the city of Wilkes-Barre stretches out through the windows of Weckesser's attic, where much of the Oriental decorations from the home were stored. Like the second floor, the third has been converted into offices.

Dara Coslett, Alumni Coordinator for Admissions, says, "My office adjoins the attic. It's a cozy space that reflects the warmth of this unique campus that is lined with multiple historic homes."

The Weckesser Annex, which is now the building for the university's Purchasing and Printing offices, used to be the garage, as well as apartments for the chauffer and gardener.

In an addition to Historical Landmarks on the Wilkes Campus, Georgetta Nelson says, "[Weckesser Hall] stands as a monument to the industrial and mercantile strength of the Wyoming Valley and to the man who built it and bequeathed it to Wilkes...Frederick J. Weckesser."

Weckesser Hall's ornate beauty and visual strength make it one of the architectural gems in Wilkes-Barre, as well as a prominent focal point on the Wilkes campus. More importantly, however, Weckesser Hall's impressive stature and rich legacy serve as a reminder of Wilkes-Barre's prestigious past to the city's residents, as well as Wilkes students.

Interestingly, the Weckesser Hall as we now know it was not the only building given to Wilkes by the Weckesser family. In 1938, Frederick Weckesser donated 78 West Northampton Street to Bucknell Junior College, which eventually became Wilkes College, and now Wilkes University.

In his book, Andrews describes the first Weckesser Hall's history, saying, "The building was first used as 'Collegium Musicum' where Professor Paul Gies, [then] Director of Music, had on display his collection of old instruments."

That building was also used as the home for President Eugene S. Farley and his wife and also for music classes. In 1943, however, it was transformed into the headquarters and infirmary of the Sixth Training Detachment of the United States Army Air Force, according to The Wilkes University

Historical Atlas.

The Northampton Street home was also used as a female dorm from 1963 to 1980; however, when the University acquired the Weckessers' house on South Franklin Street, Wilkes changed the name of the Northampton home to Susquehannock Hall.

Susquehannock Hall was removed from campus in March of 1981 to make room for Evans Hall.

The Beacon - Features
Issue: 09/26/02

Valuing Our Past: Kirby Hall's Rich Historic Significance

By Bridget Giunta

The Wilkes University campus is filled with architectural structures rich in local history and lore. This is the first in a series of articles that examines the history of the Wilkes University buildings in which we work, live, and play.

Sparkling stained glass windows, Italian marble fireplaces, and hand-carved woodwork—this is a classroom?

Kirby Hall, home to Wilkes University's Humanities Division that includes English, History, Foreign Languages, and Philosophy programs, is a building rich with beauty and history.

Located at 202 South River Street, the site on which Kirby Hall now stands has played a key role in the heritage of the Wyoming Valley, as well as the history of Wilkes.

The High Victorian Gothic structure was originally the number one plot on Wilkes-Barre's 1770 Town Plan, according to "Kirby Hall," a pamphlet researched and written by Harold Cox, Professor of History and Director of Wilkes University Press and Betsy Condrin, local historian. Jabez Sill purchased the plot of land and built a log cabin, which was the second house in Wilkes-Barre. But it was also the site of other "firsts" for the area.

In Historic Landmarks on the Wilkes Campus, written by Wilkes alumnus Ronald Andrews, historian Charles Miner recorded that the first marriage ceremony performed in the Wyoming Valley took place on the future site of Kirby Hall. The marriage occurred on April 1, 1769 and was between Nathan Dennison, a hero in the Wyoming Massacre, and Jabez Sill's daughter, Elizabeth.

In the early nineteenth century, Rosewell Welles bought Sill's plot of land for 200 pounds. Welles was one of the four attorneys admitted to the bar of Luzerne County when the County was formed in 1787. In his book, Some Early Recollections, George Bedford describes Welles' house during that period as one of the social centers of the town.

The property changed owners until it was eventually bought by Stephen Leonard Thurlow in 1872. In 1873, Thurlow commissioned renowned New York architect Frederick Clarke Withers to design the building that is now Kirby Hall.

In an essay in Historic Landmarks on the Wilkes College Campus, William V. Lewis said, "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."

Also, according to the book, Thurlow's French governess, Mademoiselle Juliette Gambaro created the wall paintings above the wainscoting in the dining room, which is now Kirby Room 108.

J. Michael Lennon, Professor Emeritus of English, whose office is in Kirby Hall, said, "I think it's no secret that professors are fortunate to teach in Kirby Hall. Kirby 108 is the most beautiful room on campus."

According to "Kirby Hall," in 1880 J. Frank Lee paid \$40,000 for the home; Reuben Flick paid \$42,500 for it in 1886; and finally, Fred Morgan Kirby purchased the home for \$55,000 in 1905.

F.M. Kirby, a banker and merchant, opened a five and ten cent store in Wilkes-Barre, which eventually grew into a chain of 96 stores under the name F.M. Kirby and Company. Kirby merged the business with others, including Frank W. Woolworth and became Vice President of the newly created F.W. Woolworth Company.

After acquiring the magnificent mansion, Kirby made several renovations to the more than 21 room home. For example, a wrap around porch originally encircled the house, but by 1910 Kirby replaced it iron railings and a stone terrace. Also, Historic Landmarks on the Wilkes College Campus notes, "The original interior woodwork was replaced with the present 'academic' moldings."

According to "Kirby Hall," "Following F.M. Kirby's death in 1940, his son Allan gave [Kirby Hall] to Bucknell Junior College (now Wilkes) as the 'Fred M. and Jesse A. Kirby Home for Education.' The Kirbys' original intention for Kirby Hall was to serve as a library and an art center, however, out of necessity for a library, Kirby Hall housed Wilkes' collection of books.

Although the idea for an art center was overruled by the need for a library, "The Kirbys provided for the use of two rooms on the first floor by the Wyoming Valley Society of the Arts and Sciences...It was this Society that was later to give to Wilkes College the land on which the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts now stands," explained Lewis in his essay.

Kirby Hall also functioned as the President's house when Wilkes' first President, Eugene Farley, and his family moved into the top level of the building. This served as the President's residence until Wilkes acquired the Annette Evans Alumni and Faculty House, which then became the President's home. Also, Kirby Hall's carriage house, which has since been removed for campus expansion, was used as a Student Center and cafeteria for the growing college.

When the Eugene Shedden Farley Library was built in the late 1960s, Wilkes' voluminous collection of books was relocated, and Kirby Hall was transformed into the Foreign Language Department.

Recently, Kirby Hall underwent major renovation and restoration. Now, the building continues to cast the same impressive aura it did when F.M. Kirby himself dwelled inside.

As with any historical building, Kirby's history is accentuated by stories and rumors that have accumulated over the years. For example, according to Lewis, "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."

This murder may account for the many sightings of ghostly figures in Kirby's hallways and classrooms. Professor Lennon explained, "You would often hear strange bumps and creaks when you're all alone in Kirby. There's a wine cellar in the basement and I think that if there are ghosts in the building, that's where they stay during the day."

Darin Fields, Chairperson of Humanities and Associate Professor of English, also has an office in Kirby Hall and recalled with a smile, "Before renovation, if you were in Kirby late at night or early in the morning, it was pretty creepy. Now, after renovation, Kirby has a whole different feeling. I think the spirits are happy."

Not only are the spirits that live within Kirby happy about the renovation, but so is the city of Wilkes-Barre itself. The renovation and restoration project earned the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of

Commerce 2000 Pride of Place Award.

Even after almost 150 years, Kirby Hall's impressive façade still exudes a feeling of importance and harkens back to Wilkes-Barre's glorious past. Since its acquisition by Wilkes, Kirby Hall has served a variety of purposes, each fulfilling Allan Kirby's original desire for a "Home for Education."

So, next time you take an English or philosophy class in Kirby Hall, look around and absorb the history that still remains alive within its walls.

The Beacon - Features
Issue: 10/17/02

Chase Hall: From Coal Baron Mansion to Wilkes Admissions Home

By Bridget Giunta

Bright sunlight passes through the vibrant stained glass window between the first and second floors of Chase Hall and playfully dances on the floor, creating a colorful pattern. Like the stunning array of colors that make up the stained glass window, the building's history is rich and gracious.

In 1917, the mansion was built as a residence for Frederick Merrill Chase and his family. Chase was born in January of 1865 and moved to Wilkes-Barre when he was 14 years old. Once in Wilkes-Barre, Chase worked his way through the coal industry and eventually became the president of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. At that time, the Lehigh Valley Coal Company was the second largest anthracite producing company in the world.

Although Chase was a prominent figure in the Wilkes-Barre elite, he was also concerned with the dangerous working conditions that his many workers faced in the mines. According to a biography of Chase in the reception area of Chase Hall, "Mr. Chase inaugurated an innovative welfare program of health care and easement of the hazardous life of his 20,000 employees...the most extensive movement of its kind ever attempted by a mining company."

In 1892, Chase married Ellen Warner Stark, who was the older sister of Admiral Harold Stark, for whom Stark Learning Center was later named.

Ronald Andrews, author of *Historical Landmarks on the Wilkes Campus*, writes "At the time of his death in 1921, he was the vice president of Coxe Brothers and Company, vice president and general manager of the Lehigh Valley Water Supply and director of the Miner's National Bank."

Chase's companies, along with others, helped fuel the anthracite-driven economy of Wilkes-Barre and allowed for elegant mansions like the Chase home to be built.

The residence was built in the Tudor Revival style, which the pamphlet "Walk Wilkes-Barre" characterizes as "an architectural style that revived the forms and elements of architecture in late medieval England."

Steeply pitched roofs, massive chimneys, and multiplaned windows are features common to this architectural style. According to *The Wilkes University Historical Atlas*, written by Harold E. Cox, Chase Hall was donated to Wilkes' predecessor, Bucknell University Junior College, on March 2, 1937, by Admiral Stark in honor of the Chase family.

Although Conyngham Hall was acquired by the college on February 1, 1937, Cox explains, "Discreetly, the announcement was delayed so that both acquisitions could be publicized simultaneously."

From its beginning as the second building belonging to Bucknell University Junior College, to its current status as the Admissions Office, Chase Hall has been utilized in a number of ways.

Chase Hall started out as an administrative building that was also home to a small snack bar, lounges, and a bookstore. In the 1950s, Chase Hall, as well as the rest of campus suffered from a shortage of space due to increasing enrollment. According to Cox, the snack bar moved to Harding Hall, which stood on the current site of Breiseth Hall.

Administrative functions continued in Chase Hall until the late 1960s, when the larger Weckesser Hall was transformed into the new administration building.

Interestingly, Cox notes, "Garages became as important to the college as the houses themselves. Providing larger spaces than rooms in the houses, the garages of the South River Street homes would be converted over the years into a cafeteria, a theater, and classrooms, providing critical services until Wilkes would begin building new facilities."

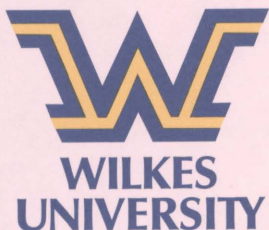
For example, when Admiral Stark donated Chase Hall to Bucknell University Junior College in 1937, he also included the home's garage, which became known as the Chase Hall Annex, and later, the Chase Theater. The college's thespian group, the Cue 'n Curtain Society, held rehearsals and one act plays in the small 90-seat theater. The Chase Theater was utilized until the construction of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for Performing Arts in 1965 and was then demolished in August 1975.

The cozy rooms of Chase Hall are warm and inviting, much like the red and yellow light that filters through its ornate window. Guests and prospective students, as well as current members of the Wilkes community, are welcomed to campus through the doors of Chase Hall.

Melanie Mickelson, Director of Enrollment Services, has worked in Chase for seven years and said, "It feels like my own home to me now. I think the old houses on campus are a part of what makes us 'Wilkes'. They make you feel like you're at home with your family."

She added, "One of the most attractive features of our campus is that it's blended new, modern facilities with these historical buildings that preserve that collegiate look and feel. I've been to a lot of campuses that were a few acres of concrete and brick. I'm glad we're not one of them."

Chase Hall, as well as the majority of the mansions on South River Street, were built as homes for society's elite members of industry. Now, in its role as the Admissions Office, Chase is reminiscent of Wilkes-Barre's legacy in industry, but more importantly, it encourages others to become part of the close-knit Wilkes family.



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

General Info from 1946 BUDC

- Mrs. John Conyngham & Ad & Mrs. Harold N. Stark were 1st donors
 - John N. Conyngham Hall & Chase Hall given in 1937 & dedicated by Pres. Marts April 9, 1938
- 1938: MR & MRS. Fred Weck. donated ⁷⁸Northampton St. Residence → 1st Weck Hall, then named Susquehannock (Women's dorm)
- 1941: Kirby donated by Allan P. Kirby (Kirby Home for Ed) dedicated Dec 2, 1941
- Long Residence @ 154 S. River → Veteran's Guidance Center
- Payne Residence @ 158 S. River → Stoddard " @ 191 S. Frank → heirs of Ashley estate @ 164 S. River →
- Construction: new cafeteria bwn. Chase & S. Frank.
- new classrooms in bldg. behind Conyngham

Bucknell University Junior College was founded in Wilkes-Barre in 1933 by Bucknell University for the purpose of offering to the young men and women of the Wyoming Valley the educational opportunities previously denied them. At the time the College was founded, this was the largest community in Pennsylvania, if not in the United States, which did not have a co-educational, community college.

The first years of the College were spent in a rented office building on Northampton Street. A majority of the faculty came from Bucknell University. Starting with an initial class of one hundred and fifty-five students, the enrollment soon became so great that the building was no longer adequate. It was evident that the experiment in community education was successful. The administration and local trustees appealed to leading citizens to enable the college to move from temporary quarters to a permanent home. The response was prompt and generous.

Mrs. John Conyngham and Admiral and Mrs. Harold N. Stark were the first donors. John N. Conyngham Hall and Chase Hall, given in 1937, were dedicated by President Marts on April 9, 1938. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weckesser in 1938 added the Northampton Street residence which is now the women's dormitory. In 1941 Mr. Allen Kirby donated the home of his parents to permit further expansion from already overcrowded quarters. The Kirby Home for Education, dedicated on December 2, 1941, provided the College with a real campus, for its spacious grounds adjoined those of Chase Hall.

Since October, 1945, trustees and friends have given to the College four additional buildings: the Long residence at 154 South River Street, now the Veterans' Guidance Center; the Payne residence at 158 South River Street; the Stoddard residence at 191 South Franklin Street; and the residence at 164 South River Street, donated by the heirs of the Ashley estate, Mrs. Marian Ahlborn, Dr. Henry Carr, and Mrs. Roccena Wolfe.

Further evidence of the growth of the Junior College is seen in the construction of the new cafeteria between Chase Hall and the South Franklin Street property, in the establishment of new classrooms in the building behind Conyngham Hall, and in the many changes being made inside Kirby, Conyngham, and Chase. The initiation last September of a third year of college work is another indication of the continual growth of a college-level, co-educational institution in the heart of Wyoming Valley. It is the genuine hope of each member of the student body that the school will continue to prosper until, at some time in the near future, there will be a four year college in this community.

The student body is deeply indebted to the trustees and friends of the college who have sought to produce a fine educational institution in the community. The students extend grateful thanks to those who, by their vision and faith, have established a college of which we are all proud.

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2003

HISTO

SOMEWHERE IN TIME



This home of the Victorian era was at West River and West South Street, Wilkes-Barre. The home was the residence of William H. Conyngham and the mansion was used in the film serials called "A Woman in Gray." The structure has been removed and is the site of the Wilkes University Dorothy Dickson Performing Arts Center. The photo is credited to the Luzerne County Historical Society.

Somewhere in Time is a Wednesday and Sunday feature exclusively in The Citizens' Voice and The Sunday Voice. Readers are invited to submit photos by calling Gene Skordinski at 821-2051, or by e-mail at gskordinski@citizensvoice.com.

Bridget —

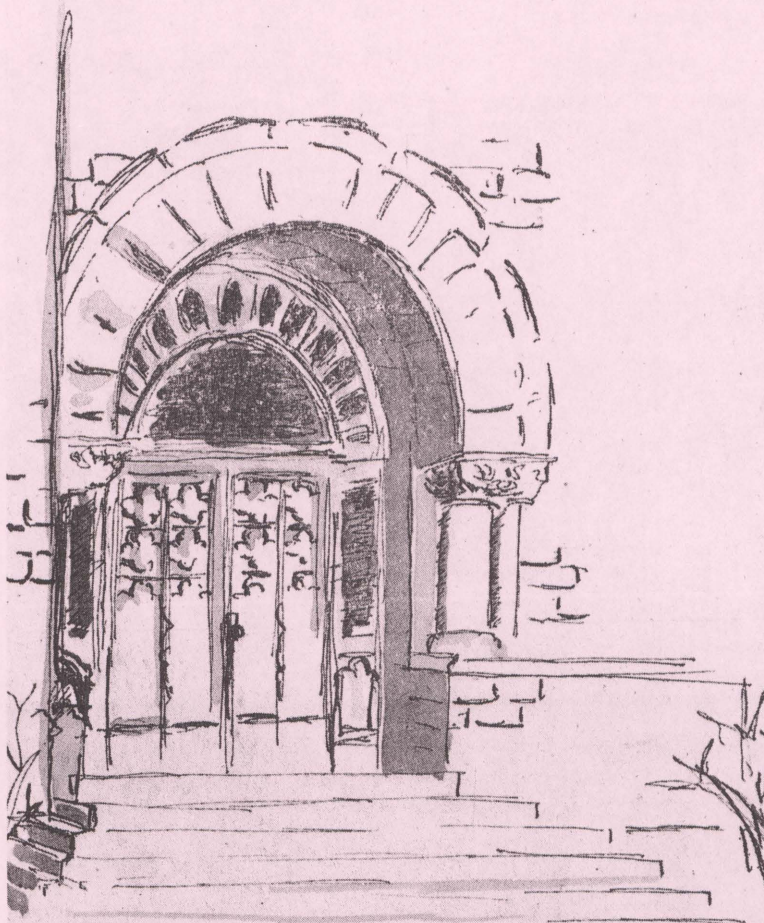
This came in interoffice mail for you and me. But I'm not sure who sent it — Gretchen, perhaps?

I know you already saw it, but thought I pass it on anyway. — Cam

P. C. H.

We are all familiar with the long trek up the three flights of steps in PCH on the way to the many rooms upstairs that are used for our various classes. As we reach the top of the stairs we are greeted with the sounds of foreign songs being played on the phonograph or sung by the language groups, for the language department holds here weekly classes in German, French, Spanish, and Polish. On the third floor hall, lined with men and women changing classes, we hear the many language students trying out their conversational ability.

In addition to the smaller rooms, there is a large lecture room located in the front of PCH which serves as a special classroom for crowded survey courses and also as a convenient room for conducting final examinations. We also make use of the first floor auditorium for dances, parties, and assembly programs. Added to the campus of Bucknell Junior College for the time being, PCH, an addition to our College, has aided greatly in relieving the critical shortage of classroom space.



(First Row—Reading Down)
FRIDAY NIGHT FUN



(Second Row—Reading Down)
LECTURING
FINAL EXAMINATION





BOOK STORE

The growth of the book store is typical of the expansion that has taken place in all departments of the college. Just one year ago, the book store was opened as a separate unit at 191 South Franklin Street. When larger quarters were needed, last fall the book store moved to its present location on the lower floor of Chase Hall where 1200 students are now being taken care of.

→ Gies Hall

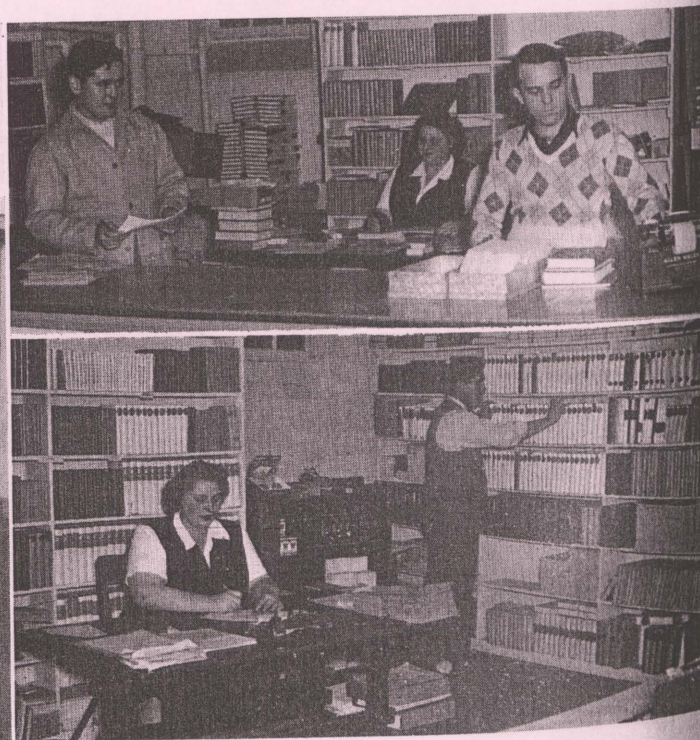
As we were passing the time of day with Miss Gittins, who is in charge of the store, she told us of the problems she has had in supplying students with books and paper in this period of shortages. She said that shortages of language books and drawing papers were most apparent. It seems, however, that the shortage has not affected the supply or demand of the Kierzek **Practice of Composition** because it still is the most used of all the textbooks.

Not all activity of the book store is caused by the issuance of supplies, for it is also the center of distribution for tickets for our many social activities.

The book store is a gathering place for many people during the course of the day. There are always people there to get newspapers and tickets, or to inquire about missing text books or lost articles.



(First Row—Reading Down)



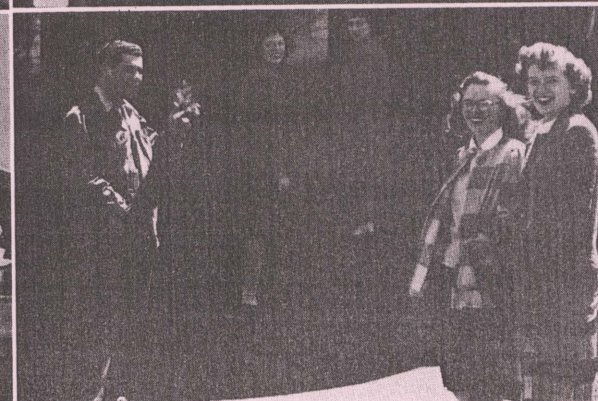
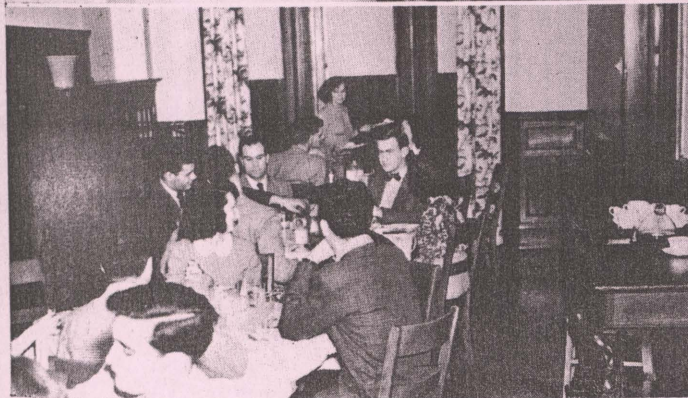
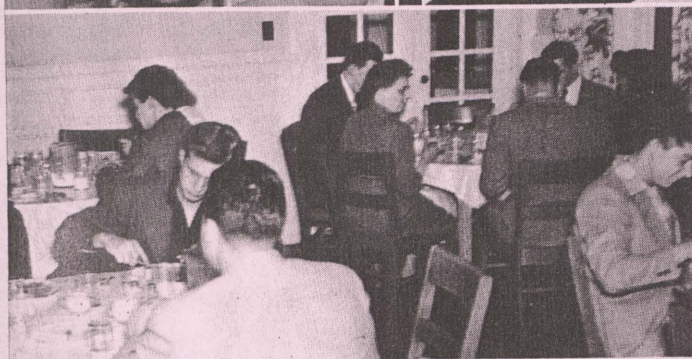
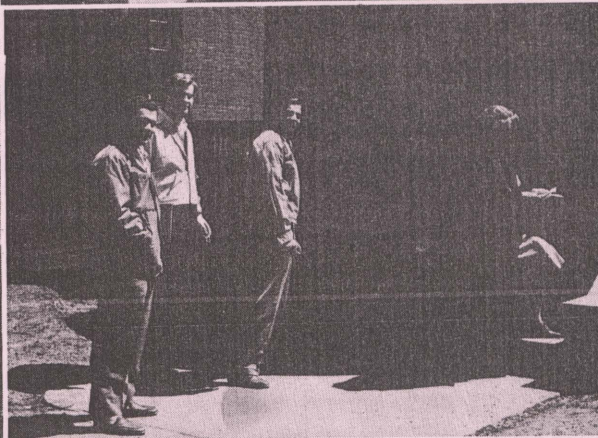
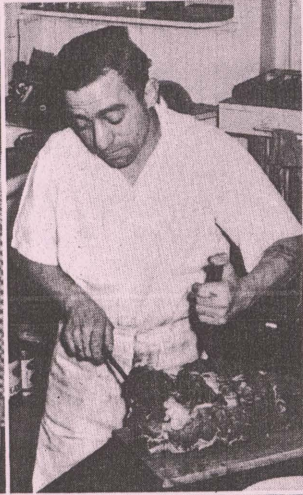
(Second Row—Reading Down)

CAFETERIA

Eleven years ago our college established its first cafeteria, situated in Chase Hall. At first, the restaurant was open only from twelve to one o'clock each day, accommodating thirty students at one time.

Last October, as a result of our increased enrollment, the present cafeteria was opened. The new building can now seat well over one hundred people. At lunch time and between classes, groups of students can be seen along the serving counter and at the "coke" machine on the first floor. On the second floor, where the atmosphere is not so busy, we may enjoy a leisurely after lunch chat with our fellow students. The cafeteria is also available to special groups and parties at night. The original staff has increased to eight people, five of whom are students. Mrs. Brennan is assisted by Mrs. Edith Thomas and Mrs. Etta Jacoby. Familiar to us all are fellow students Thomas Evans, Richard Conklin, Joseph Pringle, Naomi Hons, and Leon Gilbert.





(First Row—Reading Down)

JUST BEFORE 6
BEHIND THE SCENES
PREPARATION
LUNCH TIME
THREE TIMES A DAY

(Second Row—Reading Down)

FACULTY FAMILY
LATE AFTERNOON
THEMES
THE WOLF



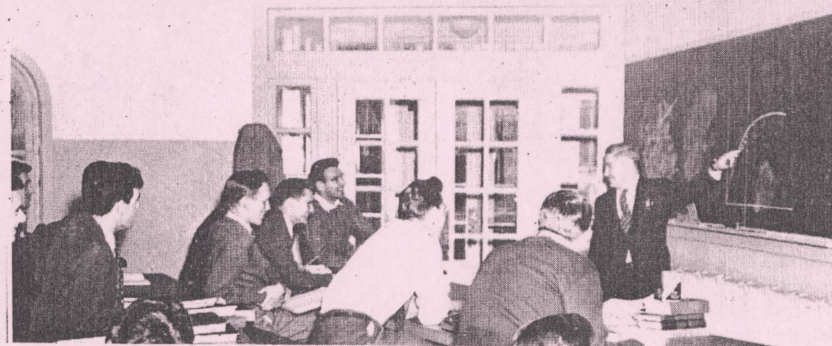
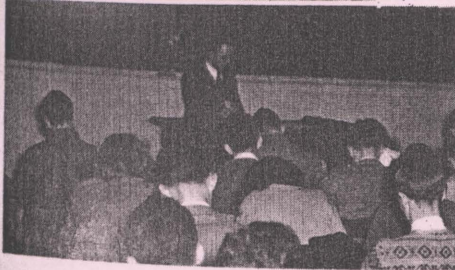
LONG BUILDING

New to our campus this year is the college dining room located on the main floor of the building at 154 South River Street. Here the dormitory students come together three times a day for meals. In order to enable our men and women residing at the dormitories to attain a better familiarity and comradeship, the seating arrangements are changed frequently during the school year. Each member of the faculty who sits with the students at meals helps to create a spirit of good fellowship between the faculty and the student body. An eavesdropper on conversation at breakfast, lunch, or dinner would likely hear many sorts of discussions and comments on campus affairs and life in a dormitory.

In addition to the dining room, this building has a lounge for the use of resident students and apartments upstairs which are occupied by faculty members. The second floor houses several offices of the English and Mathematics Departments. In fact, almost any day of the week our mathematics students can be seen trekking to the department offices for help in some complicated problem, as our fellow English students in the offices next door discuss the inevitable term-paper difficulties.

CONYNGHAM ANNEX

Conyngham Annex, one of the buildings new to our campus, is located behind Conyngham Hall. Several different departments hold classes here each day in two bright, modernly-equipped classrooms. Throughout the school day many students pursuing various fields of study, such as English, history, sociology, mathematics, and engineering meet here in the Annex. One can usually find our engineers working with their drawing boards and T-squares in one room and some of our other students listening to a lecture in the other. When the time comes to change classes, we see students going to and from this building, dodging cars and chatting about the events of the day and the points of discussion in the lectures, as they follow along the driveway beside Conyngham Hall or as they cut across the campus to P.C.H. Conyngham Annex has added to the facilities of Bucknell, and with the two large lecture rooms has aided in the scheduling of classes.



(First Row—Reading Down)

THE ANNEX
HISTORY LECTURE

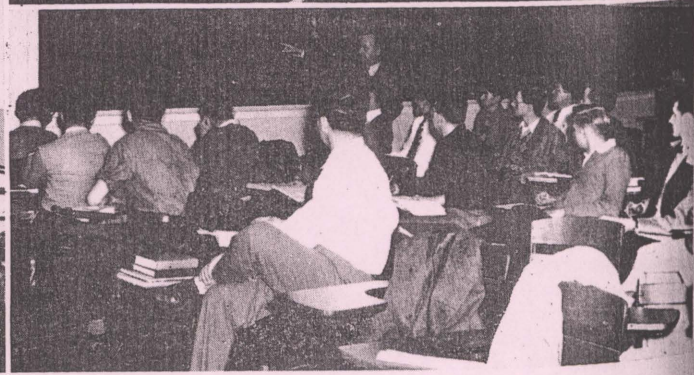
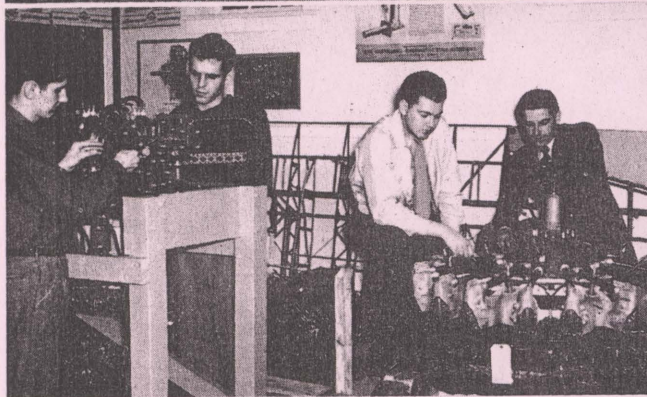
(Second Row—Reading Down)

SOCIOLOGY SESSION
PHYSICS PROBLEMS



MATH CENTER

The Mathematics Center consists of the buildings in the rear of the former Long, Payne, and Ashley homes. The rooms in these buildings have been remodeled into modern classrooms; tile floors and fluorescent lighting have been installed to transform them into some of the most pleasant rooms on our campus. Plenty of blackboard space makes the rooms especially useful for mathematics classes, but several other lectures are also given in the center, and faculty meetings are held there once a month. Throughout the past wet winter we could usually see some of our students armed with slide rules and handbooks making a path in the newly fallen snow, jumping the puddles left by the rain, or plowing through the muddy ground on their way to classes in the rear. Although the Mathematics Center constitutes a small area of our college campus, nevertheless it plays an important part as a center of our activities.

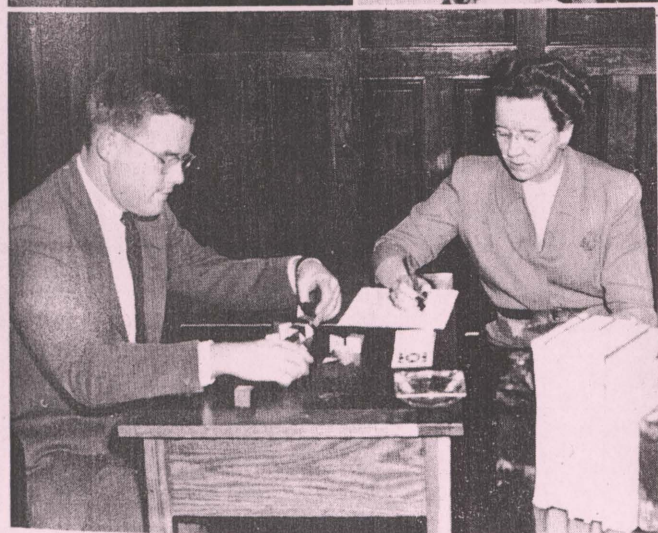
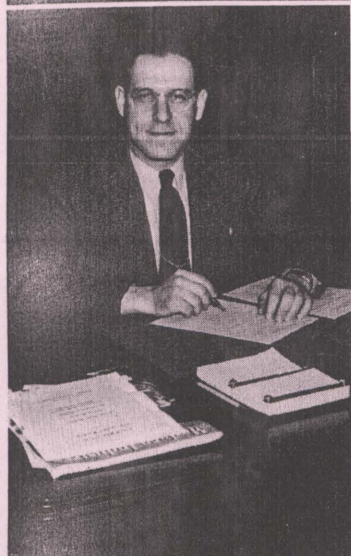


(First Row—Reading Down)

NEW ADDITION
MEN AND MOTORS

(Second Row—Reading Down)

CALCULUS
ALGEBRA



(First Row—Reading Down)

CONFERENCE

MR. HALL

TESTING

Center

INTRODUCTION

(Third Row—Reading Down)

WIGGLY BLOCKS

NUTS AND BOLTS

INTERVIEW

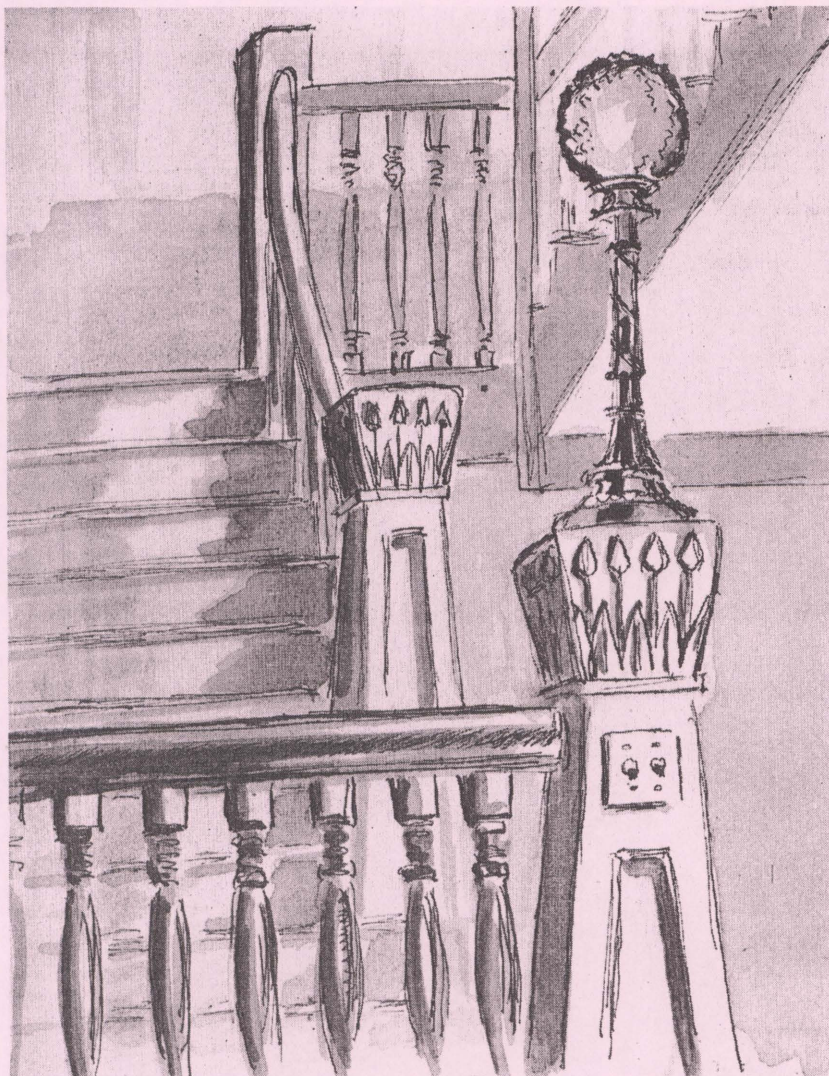
ASHLEY BUILDING

The Ashley Building was deeded to our College by the heirs of the Ashley estate. This building houses the Guidance Center for veterans in this area and every man and woman veteran student must pass through the center.

The guidance procedure of the center starts with a trained counselor who interviews the veteran in order to determine his mental ability, interests, personality adjustment, and specific aptitudes. A picture of the vocational situation in the field suitable to his capacities is presented to the veteran, and he is thus helped to arrive at a vocational objective.

Not only have veterans received vocational guidance at the center, but others have also made use of its library of catalogues of universities and colleges, including technical and vocational schools, schools of art, and business schools.

Mr. John A. Hall is the director of the Guidance Center, representing our College; and Mr. Daniel E. Thomas is the acting chief of the Guidance Center, representing the Veterans Administration. Miss Kathryn E. Dominguez, of our faculty, is in charge of the Center of Psychology.





(First Row—Reading Down)
 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 FRIENDLY CHAT
 CORNER SHOT
 FILING
 RECORDING

(Second Row—Reading Down)
 CABARET PLANS
 FINANCIAL WORRIES
 GOSSIP COLUMN
 PIED-PIPER
 AMONG US GIRLS
 NUMBER PLEASE?



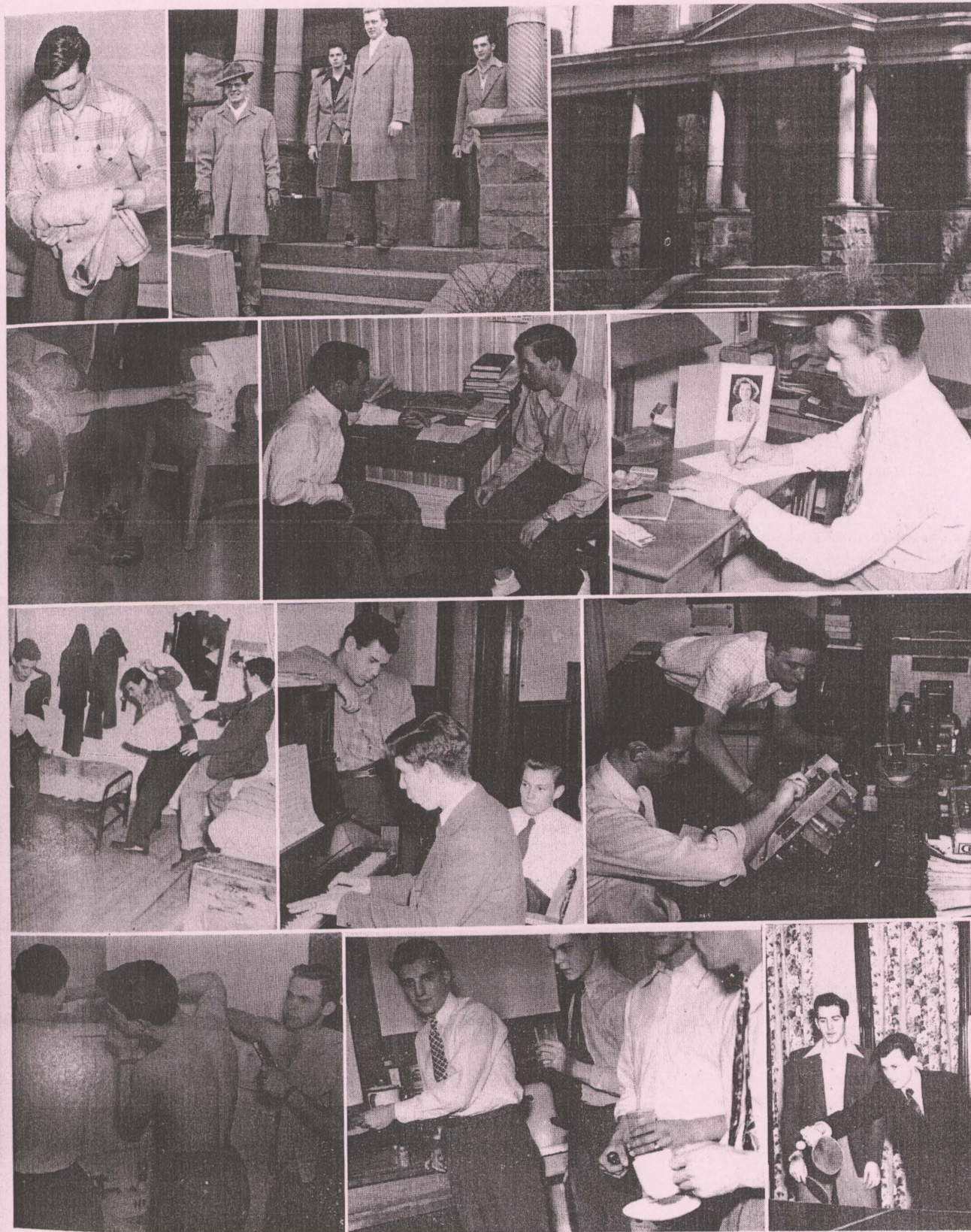
CHASE HALL

The center of activity for Bucknell University Junior College is Chase Hall, which contains the administration offices, some faculty offices, and the men's and women's lounges. Both the official bulletin board and the student activities bulletin board, which inform us of future activities, are located in the main entrance of this building.

The large reception room on the first floor facing River Street is used for various activities, such as teas, discussions, and club meetings. Many of us gather during the lunch hour to sing or just to listen to someone play the piano.

On the second floor of Chase Hall is the women's lounge. It is a spacious room which affords the women students a place to relax between classes and to carry on discussions. On the third floor is the men's lounge which serves the same purposes for the men.

Recent improvements to the building have made it possible to include offices of the Literary Magazine and the book store, making Chase Hall the hub of our college activity.



(First Row—Reading Down)

PACKING
FIVE MINUTES MORE
ALL IN FUN
HURRY UP

(Second Row—Reading Down)

TIME TO GO
COUNSELING
MAKE MINE MUSIC
SNACK BAR

(Third Row—Reading Down)

PAYNE — AUTUMN
DEAR MARY
HOBBY LOBBY
DOUBLES

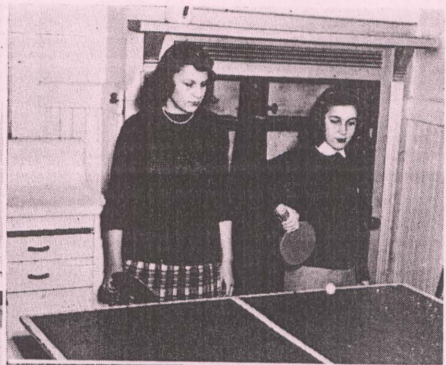
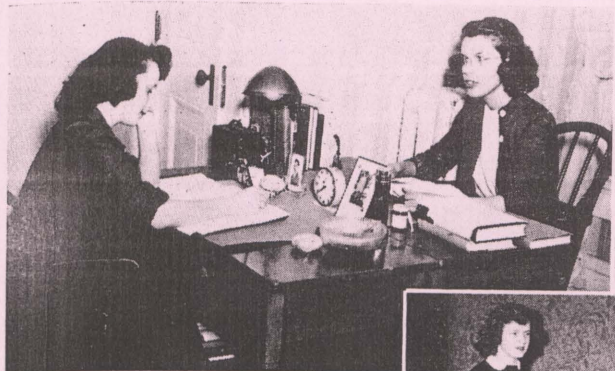


PAYNE HALL

One need look no further for signs of the growth of Bucknell Junior College than the Men's Dormitory, which opened last year. Previously, students from out of town were required to find rooms throughout the city, but now the College has provided a residence for men students in the large Payne home at 158 South River Street. Mr. George Ralston, dean of men, is the faculty member in charge.

With thirty men in the building this year, every available space was taken. The second and third floor rooms were shared by two, three, or four men. Here we slept, read, and studied. The rest of our time we spent in leisure in the first floor lounges and recreation rooms, talking, smoking, reading magazines, or playing ping-pong. Many gatherings to which the entire student body was invited were held in the lounge during the year. The first floor also has a snack bar, open at night from 9:30 to 10:30 Monday through Friday, where those late evening pangs of hunger can be appeased.

Those of us who lived in the dormitory shall remember for many years the arguments we used to have about the merits of our respective states of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. We shall also remember the good times we had on Sunday nights when we were allowed to prepare our own suppers. We have found that residence in a dormitory is valuable in giving us a feeling of association and intimacy with our fellow students. The companionship found in a group of men with the same ambitions and the same striving for learning will always be remembered.



(First Row—Reading Down)
 STUDY HOUR
 ORATION
 SONG-FEST
 IT'S MY TURN!

(Second Row—Reading Down)
 "GOING HOME"
 HEADLINE NEWS

(Third Row—Reading Down)
 THE ATHLETES
 HECKLERS
 JUST LIKE HOME
 SOUVENIR

WECKESSER DORMITORY

Weckesser Hall was presented to Bucknell in 1938 by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Weckesser. The building was first used as a home for the Director, and as meeting place for several small classes in music. From April 1942 until February 1944 it was used as headquarters and infirmary for the Sixth College Training Detachment of the Army Air Forces. In September 1944 Weckesser Hall became the girls' dormitory.

Those of us who were in residence in "Weck" Hall remember with pleasure the cheerful song fests around the piano in the reception room, the friendly get-togethers in the smoking room, and the hustle of preparations for the Beta Gamma Chi teas. On Saturday mornings the cellar and the second floor ironing room were always crowded spots, with girls downstairs washing clothes or waiting in line for the tubs while other girls upstairs pressed clothes. Second and third story rooms served as our bedrooms, each of better than average size and each accommodating two or three girls.

Miss Norma C. Sangiuliano was dormitory housemother from 1944 to December 1946. Our present housemother is Mrs. Katherine Mayo Alderfer.





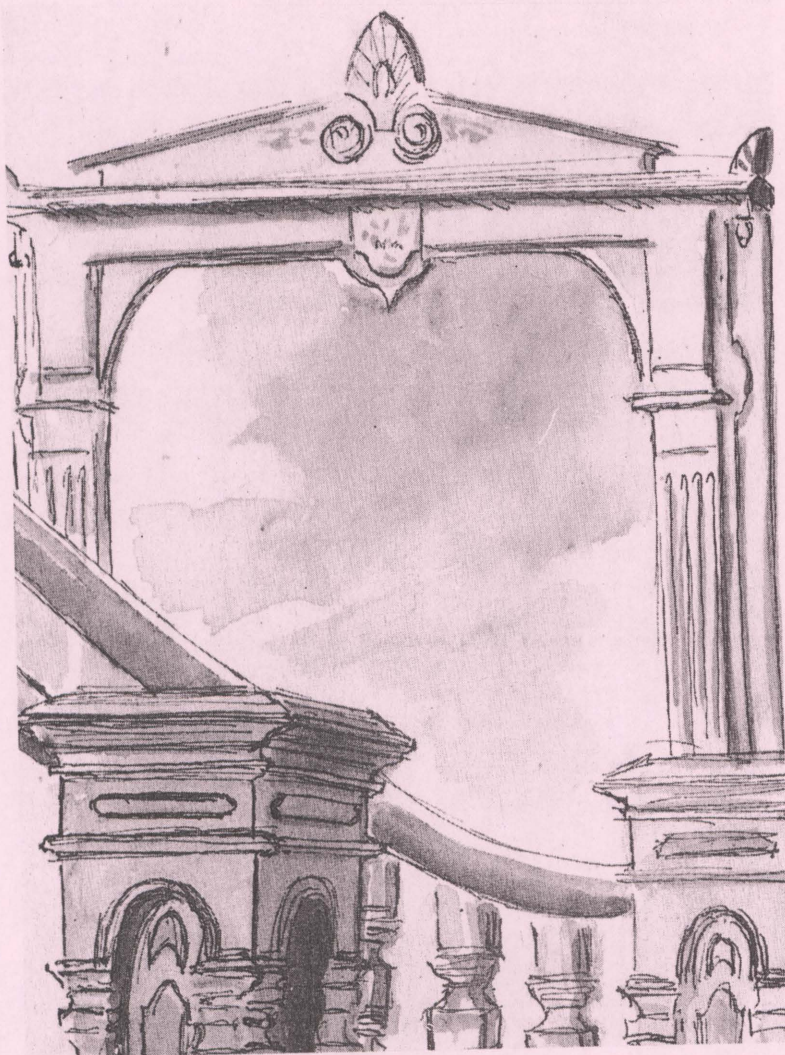
(First Row—Reading Down)
 HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU
 RENDEZVOUS
 ASPIRING SCIENTISTS
 EXPERIMENT

(Second Row—Reading Down)
 NERVES OF STEEL
 THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS
 BOTTLES, BUNSEN-BURNERS, and STUDENTS
 LEARNING BY DOING

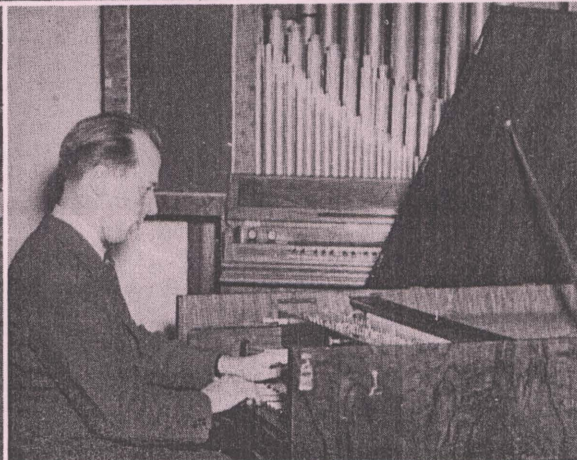
(Third Row—Reading Down)
 INCUBATOR BABIES
 WHICH END'S UP?
 MICROPHOTOGRAPHY
 SNOWFALL SERENITY

Presented to Bucknell by Mrs. John Conyngham in 1937 and dedicated the following year, Conyngham Hall has become the center of the science department of the school. Students following courses in the sciences can be found hard at work in the laboratories, conducting physics experiments, carrying on microscopic investigations in biology and zoology or forming solutions and precipitates in the chemistry laboratory. Most of us are aware of the confusion of sounds and smells emanating from the laboratories when classes are in session—and even on Saturday mornings, as our energetic chemists seek to analyze their “unknowns.” In addition to the well-equipped laboratories, Conyngham Hall has several classrooms for lectures in the sciences. A large drafting room on the third floor accommodates many of our engineers’ drawing classes.

Conyngham’s long pillared porch is the scene of many informal discussions between students and faculty, and men and women often linger after school hours to exchange bits of campus news. For ten years Conyngham Hall has been the center of our science department at Bucknell Junior College. This is one building which will surely be visited when students return in the coming years.



CONYNGHAM
HALL



(First Row—Reading Down)

ENCORE
HARPSICHORD
ORGAN PRELUDE

(Second Row—Reading Down)

CORNET SOLO
VIOLA DA GAMBA
FRIDAY AFTERNOON BROADCAST
HARPSICHORD SOLO

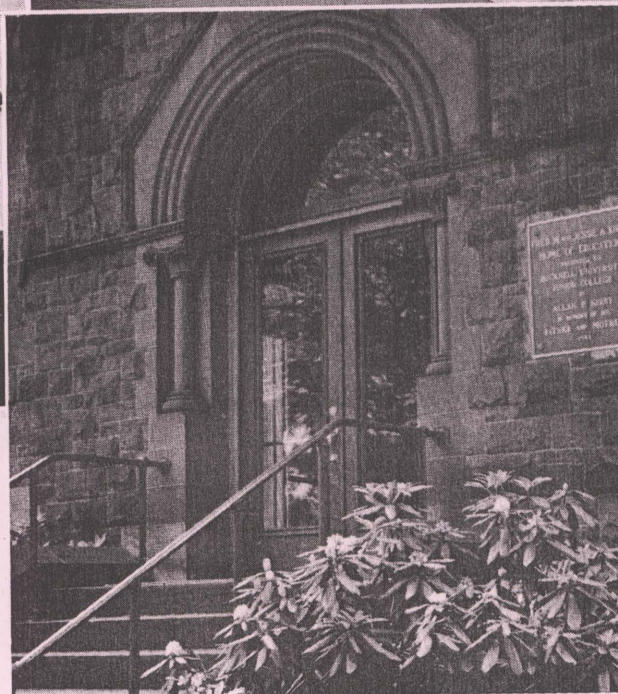
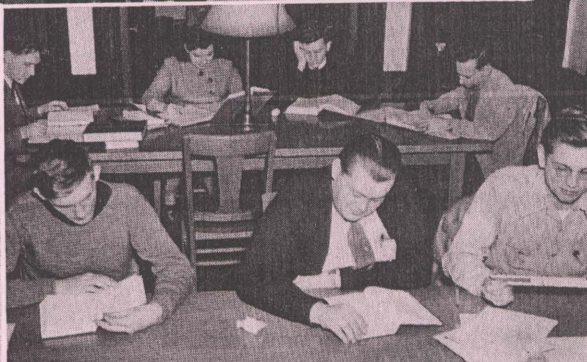
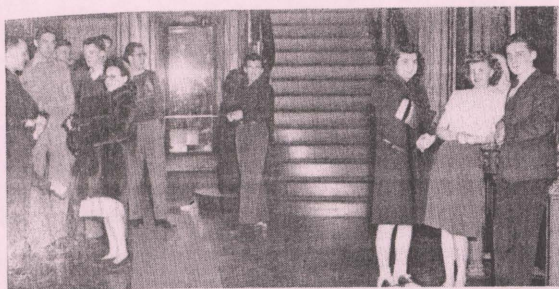
STODDARD BUILDING



The Stoddard building, acquired by the College last year, extended our campus to Franklin Street. In the music rooms of the first floor we hear the familiar sounds of students practicing their voice and piano exercises. The second and third floors have been remodeled to provide two apartments for faculty members and their families.

Of the music rooms, three are used for practice and recitation and one is used as a music museum. During the week, the practice rooms are the scene of many vocal and piano lessons given by Professor Paul Gies or Mr. Charles Henderson. In the music museum are several rare old instruments, including a Bach pipe organ, a harpsichord, and a viola da gambra. From this room have emanated bi-weekly half-hour broadcasts on Friday afternoons through the facilities of a local radio station. One of these programs was prepared by the Choral Club, whereas the rest pertained to such instruments as the organ, the piano, and the harpsichord, and to compositions written for these instruments during the different periods.

By the stream of students coming to or from lessons every twenty minutes and by the strains of music pouring forth from its windows, the Stoddard building is easily recognizable to passers-by as another evidence of the growth of Bucknell Junior College.



(First Row—Reading Down)
 AFTER CLASS DISCUSSION
 EVERYBODY'S HAPPY
 BACH, BEETHOVEN, OR SPIVAK
 ANY FINES TODAY?

(Second Row—Reading Down)
 ON THE AIR
 SOME SAD, SOME GLAD
 OUTSIDE READING
 KIRBY — SPRINGTIME



KIRBY HALL

Impressive as it stands amid tall trees and green shrubbery, ivy-covered Kirby Hall has become since its donation in 1941 a building symbolic of Bucknell Junior College. Students crossing the paths from Chase Hall and from the other buildings find Kirby Hall a center of activity. Downstairs is located the office of the college newspaper where our prospective journalists gather material for the weekly issues of the **Beacon**. Also on the first floor we find the typing rooms for commercial students, several other classrooms, and a few faculty offices. The wide stairway leads us upstairs to the school library; we have all made use of the library's collection of books and periodicals as material for required reading and research. In the third floor music room many of us first realized a true appreciation of music. Kirby Hall will remain in our minds as one of our favorite buildings in our days at Bucknell.

Facelifting Wilkes' grand old ladies

By KAREN BRANZ
Staff Writer

Upon completion of his regal home on Wilkes-Barre's River Street in 1898, William Conyngham moved in with his young bride, Mae Turner.

Both had grown up in the wealthy neighborhood and easily fitted into its society. William's brother and wife lived next door, and the house had been designed by a cousin, Charles Gifford.

Most of the neighborhood's wealth came from coal and the Conyngham's were no exception.

William and Mae planned a large

family to fill the nearly 50 rooms of the new mansion, but four years later, after two miscarriages, Mae died in childbirth.

Conyngham left the huge home, spending most of his time at his mother's house, and for nearly 16 years, the lovely home was devoid of life.

Finally, in 1918, Conyngham married Jessie Guthrie, 18 years his junior. She brought the home alive again, bearing two sons and a daughter.

"River Street was a real community then, and there were lots of other children," recalls William Conyngham, Jr., now a resident of Shavertown and president of Conyngham and Company, Inc.



The stately Conyngham mansion on S. River Street in Wilkes-Barre, completed in 1898.

in Wilkes-Barre. "We could always go over the back fence and find a playmate. We kept ponies in the stables out back and rode them along the river."

"St. Stephens was a community church then, and everybody walked to church on Sunday."

The Conynghams lived a semi-casual, semi-formal life, employing "five or six servants, plus a chauffeur. Most stayed several years," according to Conyngham, "and I remember one woman who was with my mother for 40 years."

In the early days, before Conyngham's father died, dinner parties were formal occasions — black tie and long dresses. "After Father died, things changed, became more casual," he says.

But even then, he adds, "The door was always open, and I could always bring friends home."

The Conyngham mansion is one of the grand old homes of Wilkes-Barre, and like many of its peers, belongs to Wilkes College. The college acquired the home as a bequest from Mrs. Jessie Conyngham's estate after her death in 1974.

"...We feel that it is important to maintain the past architecture and dignity of the neighborhood."

The house has remained vacant since then and has presented something of a dilemma for the college. Damaged by fire and flood in the early 1970s, the home was never properly restored and was not in usable condition when the college inherited it.

"We knew the house was going to the college after Mother's death," says Conyngham, "so we made only the repairs necessary for her comfort. We thought the college would probably want to tear it down to use the land. It would be a waste to spend time and money restoring the house."

The college, however, felt it wrong to raze the stately old house, and hoped to renovate the building for use as office space. Initial inquiries into its restoration, though, were discouraging.

"We were advised to tear the place down," states George Pawlusch, director of public relations at Wilkes. "The architects all said the cost of repair would be prohibitive."

The college owns many of the old

mansions in the neighborhood, and has discovered that them to be difficult and costly to maintain. "But we feel that it is important to maintain the past architecture and dignity of the neighborhood," he says. "Before we remove a building, we are careful to study the building's significance. We've torn down only the old homes that were damaged beyond repair by the flood."

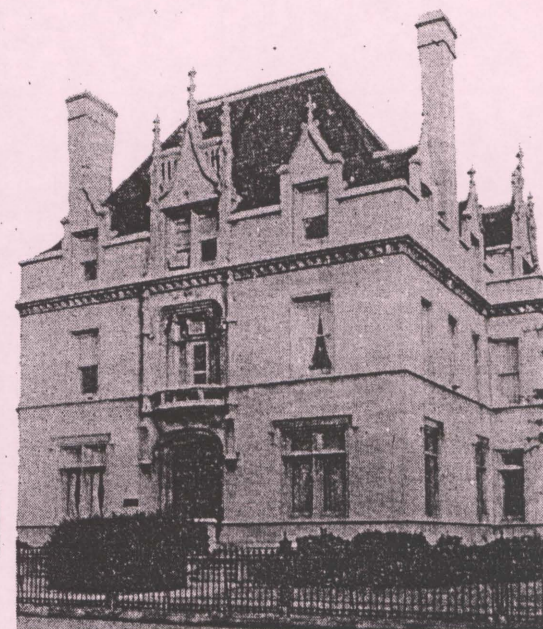
The college decided to renovate the Conyngham mansion for use as a student union building, and allotted \$350,000 for construction. An architectural firm was appointed to draw up the plans and work began in February. Completion is expected by September of this year.

The redecorating will be extensive but the college hopes to maintain as much as possible of the home's charm.

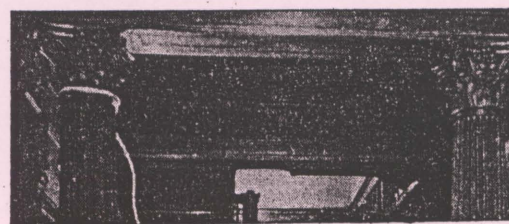
Many of the college's other administrative and teaching buildings are from the same era as the Conyngham home.

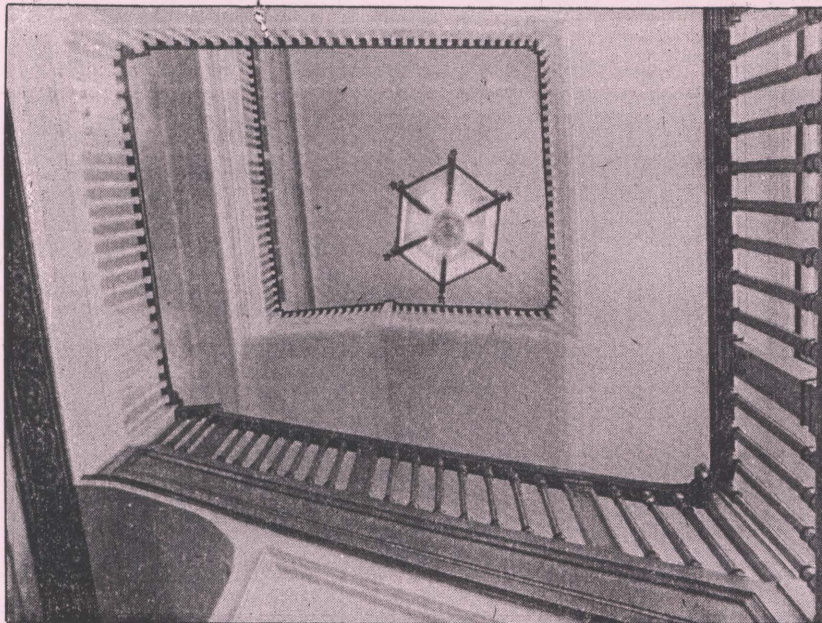
As a result of the college's protection, the neighborhood maintained its graceful character and has not deteriorated as have many of the elegant old neighborhoods of other cities.

Kirby Hall, down the street from the Conyngham mansion on S. River Street,

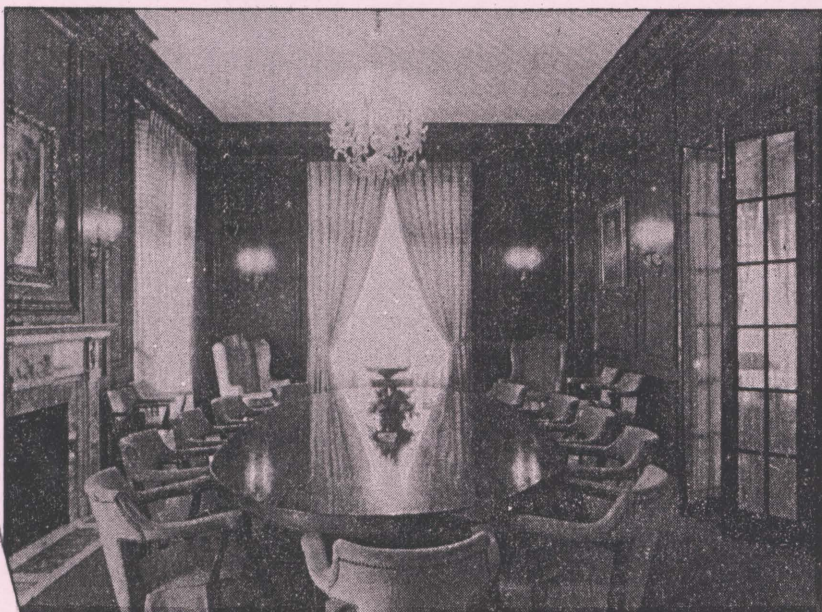


Uncertain precisely when Weckesser Hall was completed, authorities at Wilkes estimate it was finished in 1916, a magnificent example of Beaux Arts architecture popular during that era.





A dizzying view from the first floor of Weckesser's sweeping staircase.



Formerly the dining room at Weckesser Hall, this

elaborate wood-paneled room with its delicate chandelier is now used by Wilkes administrators for conferences.

Kirby Hall was given to Wilkes, then called Bucknell Junior College, in 1941 by Allan P. Kirby, and currently houses the English Department.

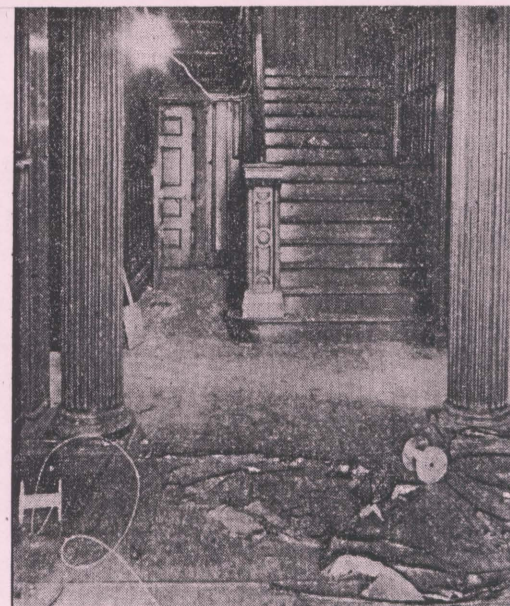
The college also owns the home of Frederick Weckesser, located on S. Franklin St. Weckesser was a business associate of F.M. Kirby and was a member of the board of directors of Woolworth's.

Weckesser Hall, used as the administrative building of the college, is one of the largest and finest of the area's aged mansions. It was built about 1916 in the Beaux Arts style popular before WW I. Many of the original furnishings of the mansion were passed onto the college, including a grandfather clock that perfectly matches the intricate woodwork of the building. A massive buffet, also matching the woodwork, rests in the main hall, and two valuable Chinese tapestries face each other on the landing of the grand staircase.

The two upper floors have been renovated as offices and a grand ballroom that once occupied much of the third floor has been partitioned into smaller rooms. But these renovations have not altered the essential grandeur of the buildings.

Jane Mangarella, who works in the public relations office on the third floor of Weckesser, summed up the feelings of most of the faculty and staff at Wilkes. "Modern buildings might be more convenient and economical, but we love these buildings."

Photos by Karen Branz



The impressive wooden staircase just past the foyer of the Conyngham mansion takes on a less elegant air during renovation of the 81-year-old home to be completed in September.



A bit of inspiration on the mantle over a fireplace at the Conyngham home to stir Wilkes College students when

the building reopens in September as the student union building.