

Thursday, April 12, 1979

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.

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,

is also due for a face lift. The Kirby family recently made a grant to the college with the stipulation that the money be used to refurbish the building.

Kirby is older than many of the other buildings, finished in 1873 for Wilkes-Barre businessman Stephen L. Thurlow.

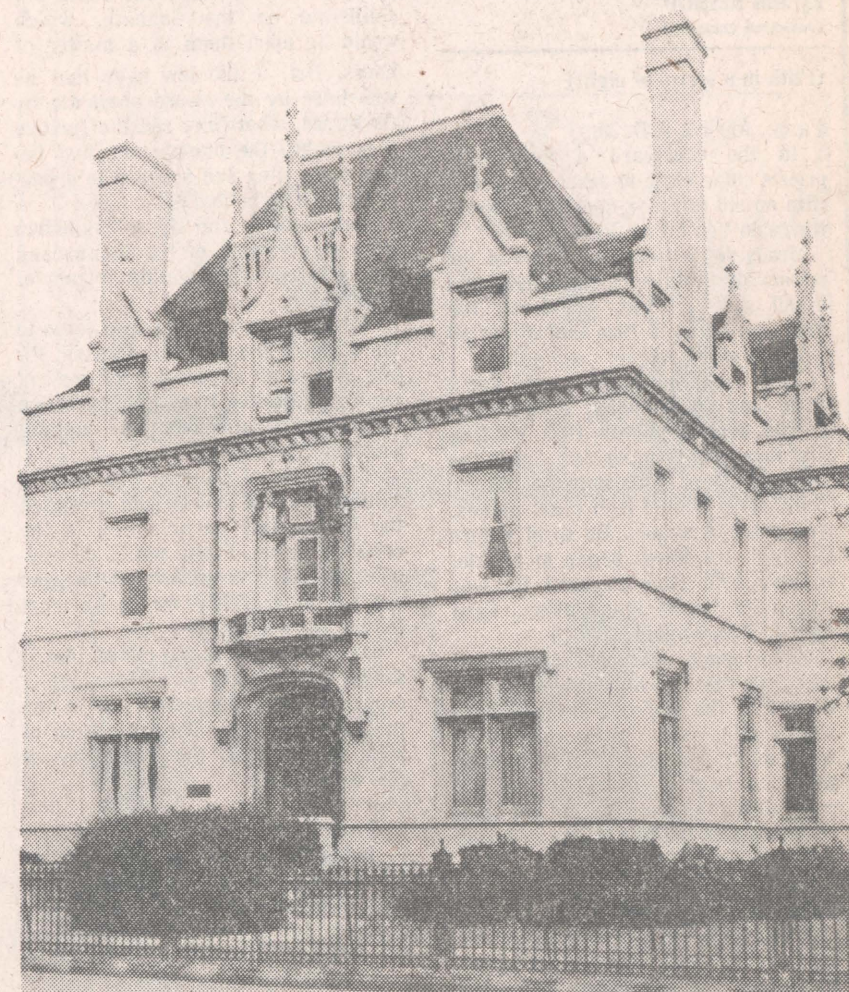
It rests on the site of the first wedding performed in Wilkes-Barre, between Nathan Dennison and Elizabeth Sims, daughter of the owner of the property.

Thurlow sold the house in 1880 to J. Franklin Lee, who in turn sold it six years later to Reuben J. Flick. Fred Morgan Kirby bought it from Flick in 1905.

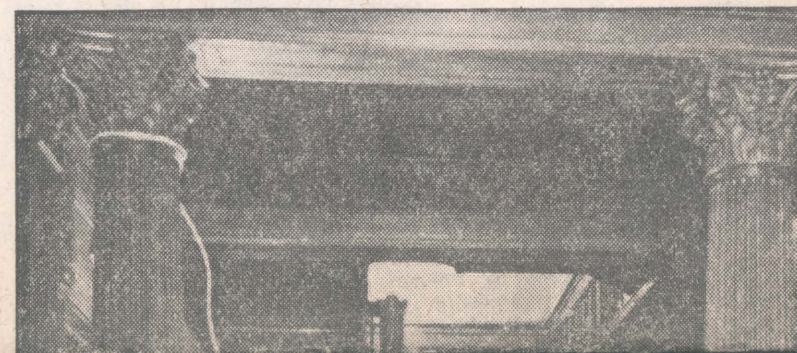
Kirby owned a chain of department stores, the F.M. Kirby Co., that merged with Woolworth about the time Kirby bought the River Street home. The Woolworth store in Wilkes-Barre is the only one in the chain that still bears the Kirby name alongside the Woolworth name.

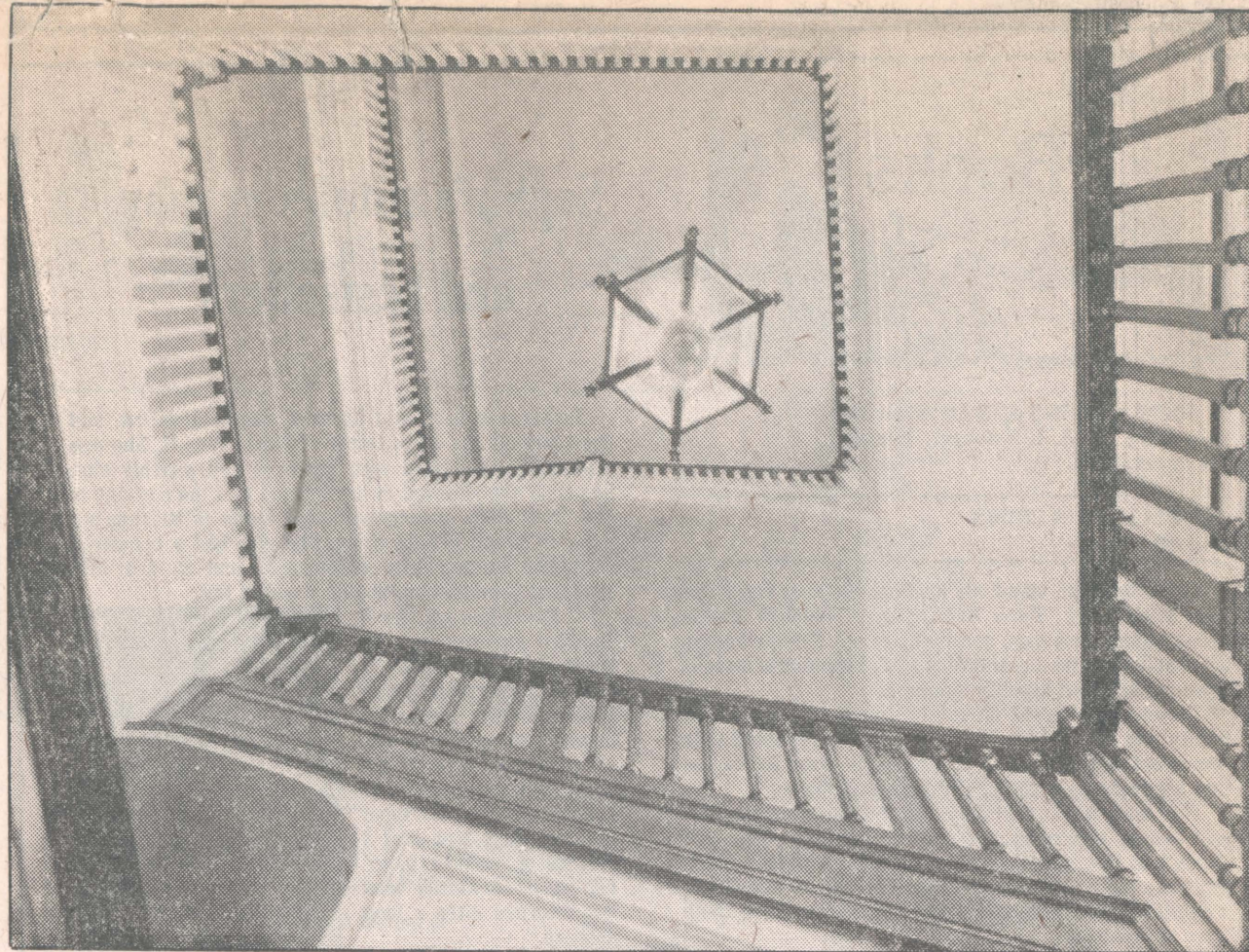


The stately Conyngham mansion on S. River Street in Wilkes-Barre, completed in 1898.

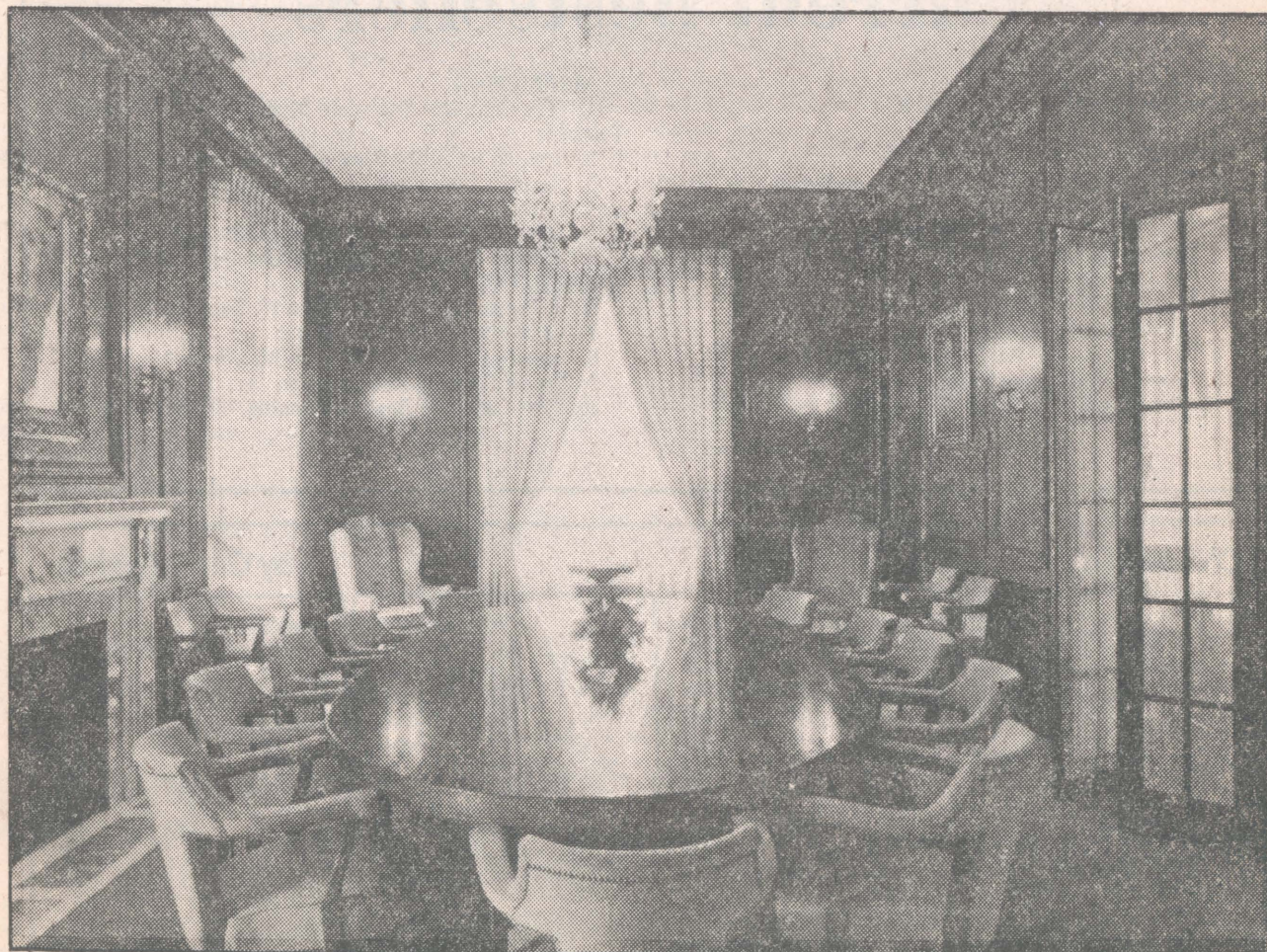


Uncertain precisely when Weckesser Hall was completed, authorities at Wilkes estimate it was finished in 1916, a magnificent example of Beaux Arts architecture popular during that era.





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 Manganella, 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.

The day Christ died

By JIM BISHOP
Syndicated Columnist

(Fifth in a series of eight)

5 a.m., April 7, A.D. 30

In the courtyard a few timid priests came close to Jesus and asked Him an old familiar question: "From where do You derive Your power?"

Jesus did not answer. Some of the priests studied Him closely now, and in all sincerity they could not see what there was in Him that attracted so many of the people.

Then someone in the group got a cloth and blindfolded Jesus. The guards danced around Him, cuffing His face and simpering: "Act the prophet, please. Who is it that struck You?" They called Him cruel names. And obscene names. He tired before they did. His knees began to buckle, so they held Him up until He was strong enough to stand alone. Then they beat Him again.

Their game continued until word came out that the high priest expected to take the prisoner to the temple shortly after dawn. So the guards got some water and used the blindfold to wipe the face of Jesus. If He was going to the temple, they did not want Him to excite the pity of the morning worshippers.

6 a.m., April 7, A.D. 30

Although he had been paid for his work, Judas could not leave the scene. Frightened and fascinated, he waited until they brought Jesus out. Judas looked and was sickened by what he saw. He was shocked and a wave of contrition engulfed him. He did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah but he knew of his own experience that this was the gentlest Man in the world.

There was a stone room in the southwestern corner of the temple, adjoining the place where the largest court faced out toward the Pool of Siloe. Here the Great Sanhedrin met. Jesus was led inside and held, standing between the facing rows.

The temple trial was brief. After reading the prisoner's offense and the judgment already rendered by the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas remarked with some unction that, while it would be

prescribed in the law, one could not deliberate on the Sabbath, which would be upon them in a matter of hours. But, if the law says that he who lives by the sword shall die by the sword, what finer sense of justice than to kill the blasphemer just before the setting sun ushered in a particularly holy Sabbath?

Two seats in the Great Sanhedrin were empty: that of Nicodemus and that of Joseph of Arimathea, friends of the accused.

The next move was to take Jesus to the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate, and in all the long, hard road of the apprehension, trial and conviction of this criminal, there was nothing Caiaphas feared more.

The worry of Caiaphas was that, in spite of the fact that he had inveigled the Roman into participating in the arrest of Jesus, Pilate would do anything he could to embarrass Caiaphas and his father-in-law, no matter what the legalities might be.

One of the elders suggested that it would help if they brought along a crowd to shout against Jesus in the presence of Pilate. The little knot of men marveled at the simplicity of this weapon.

7 a.m., April 7, A.D. 30

Judas began to run once more through the crowds of people, toward the Court of the Priests.

When Judas reached the Court of the Priests, he turned into the inner room of the offerings. Several priests were in a group, holding a discussion. They knew Judas, because these were the men who had paid him.

Judas cleared his throat and said, with forced sweetness: "It was wrong for me to betray innocent blood."

The priests looked at each other and then back to the traitor. They could not be further out of sympathy with this man.

"What does that matter to us?" said the ranking one among them. "That is your worry."

Judas stood indecisively a moment, wild-eyed, staring at the priests. Then he made a resolve. He would nullify the agreement by returning the money.

Nervously, Judas counted out thirty silver coins, and with an oath cast them to the floor. Then he turned and

Outside the wall, he ran along the little path which hung over the Valley of Hinnom.

Judas walked carefully until he came to a lonely fig tree. Then he looked at the money belt in his hand

and crept up the small trunk until he found a strong branch.

He leaned out, straddling the branch, and tied the thick leather thong to it. Then he took the other string, on the far side of the apron,

and tied it securely around his neck. He made several knots behind his ear and then slowly, carefully, he lowered himself from the branch.

He was the first of the Twelve to die, and he died before the Messiah he sold.

8 a.m., April 7, A.D. 30

Jesus was brought up to a point inside the arches of Fortress Antonia, slightly forward of the high priests. They looked up toward the balcony where Pontius Pilate, the Procurator, stood, flanked by his aides.

"What charge," asked Pilate loudly, "do you bring against that Man?" He pointed to Jesus.

The priests exchanged uneasy glances. Pilate's pretended ignorance must mean that the cruel oppressor was planning to have Jesus tried before him - and, in that case, might dismiss the charges against Him for lack of evidence.

"If this Man," said the high priest, pointing at the back of Jesus, "were not a criminal, we should not have handed Him over to you." These words constituted a legal sarcasm. It did not answer the Governor's question, which concerned the nature of the charge.

"Then take Him in charge yourselves," shouted Pilate, standing and preparing to retire, "and try Him by your law!"

Several of the priests cupped their hands and shouted together: "We have no power to put anyone to death."

Pilate did not answer. He turned his back on the priests and started to walk up the steps. The crowd of temple employees was stunned! One of the ranking priests shouted: "We caught this Man inciting our nation to revolt. He opposes the paying of taxes to Caesar and passes Himself off as the Messiah - a king."

The procurator paused and looked around. The charge against Jesus had been seriously altered.

Blasphemy was one thing. But when a responsible group of citizens used the words "revolt" and "taxes" and "Caesar," they were charging the prisoner with a high crime against Tiberius and the Empire.

Pilate walked off the balcony into

After some moments of deliberation, Pilate dispatched a servant to go out into the courtyard and tell the centurion Abenadar to bring Jesus to him.

Jesus was brought in and stood in the center of the room.

"Are You the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked.

All Pilate needed was a denial. He was giving Jesus a chance to save His life.

"My kingdom," Jesus said slowly, "is not a worldly one."

Pilate was vexed. Why did this pious faker not take advantage of his generosity? "Then You are a king after all!" he said.

"You are right," Jesus said, further confounding the Governor. "I am a king. For this purpose I was born, and for this purpose I came into the world - to give testimony to the truth. Only he who is open to the truth gives ear to My voice."

The sophisticated Roman's eyes narrowed, and his lips curled with scorn. Then he motioned for the soldiers to take Jesus outside.

The people watched almost breathlessly as Jesus reappeared, followed by Pilate and his officers.

"I can detect no guilt in this Man," Pilate said.

There was a moment or two of stunned silence, and then a riotous babble of voices arose.

The priests approached Pilate and bowing formally, said: "He stirs up the nation by His teaching throughout the whole Jewish country. He began in Galilee and ended here."

Pontius Pilate began to look pleased. He asked if the prisoner was a Galilean. Certainly, the priests said.

"Well, then," said Pilate, "this case should be under the jurisdiction of Herod, Tetrarch of Galilee. Take Him to Herod."

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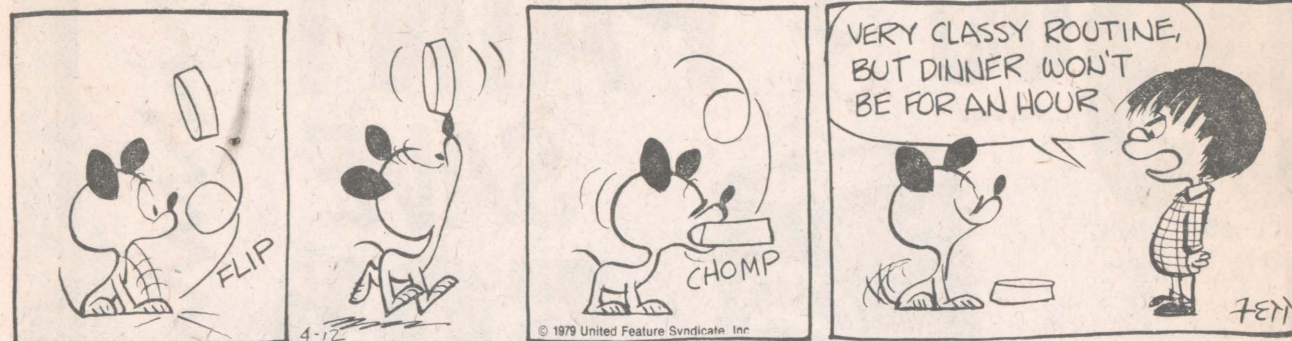
TOMORROW: The scourging of J.



"Eccce Homo," by the 19th century French painter Alexandre Bida, shows Pontius Pilate presenting Jesus to the crowd.



NORBERT



Rodgers and Hammerstein's music featured

By ROY E. MORGAN
Arts Correspondent

The cornucopia of lovely melodies that Rodgers and Hammerstein have contributed to the American musical theater was overflowing Sunday night at Irem Temple when Director Thomas Michalak and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic presented a pop concert featuring the music of our country's most famous team of song-writers.

Hardest working of the three soloists on the program and well-deserving that responsibility was Lise Karlsson, soprano, currently rehearsing "Turandot" with the Wilmington Opera Society. Joining her in their first concert of Rodgers and Hammerstein's music were her husband, Philip Salter, tenor, and Robert Shiesley, baritone.



(Photo by Alan Tepper)

A behind-the-scenes at Sunday night's concert of Rodgers and Hammerstein's music at the Irem Temple, Wilkes-Barre.

Review

Among the selections sung were those from R&H's first collaboration, "O-klahoma," and their last, "The Sound of Music." Other selections were from "Carousel," "South Pacific," "The King and I," and the motion picture "State Fair."

One got the impression that this was an easy and pleasant assignment for Conductor Michalak and his 68 orchestra members. He was easy and relaxed as he led them through Robert Russell Bennett's arrangement of the "Carousel Waltz," "March of the Siamese Children," and a medley from several shows.

A chorus of 118 voices from Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, under the direction of Robert Herrema of Marywood College, made their contribution in "I Whistle a Happy Tune," "Do-Remi," and "Out of My Dreams." The male chorus went it alone in "There Is Nothin' Like a Dame."

Ms. Karlsson's fine voice, with its full range and pure quality, was heard at its best in "Hello, Young Lovers" and "A Wonderful Guy." A graduate of Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts, she has sung "Die Fledermaus" with the Syracuse Opera Company and "Merry Widow" with the Stamford, Conn., Opera Society.

Salter, also a graduate of the Philadelphia institution, hit the high notes in a clear, clean delivery in "If I Loved

You" and "Climb Every Mountain." He is presently a member of the Uew York City Opera Theatre and has sung with the Philadelphia Symphony under André Kostelanetz.

Baritone Shiesley is a graduate of Juilliard and has sung with the New York Philharmonic, New York City Opera, Houston and Santa Fe operas. His best was saved until the end with his

rendition of "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top."

Our only complaint would be that sometimes you can get too much of a good thing, particularly it's the sentimental and romantic tunes of R & H. A program such as this tends to emphasize this aspect of their music while excluding their earthier, more earthy and comical numbers.

Forum to be held for 4-H leaders

Adults interested in youth are invited to attend the Annual Northeast Region Adult 4-H Leader's Forum Saturday, May 5, at the Master Host Inn.

Keynote speaker for the forum will be Dr. Eloise Murray, associate professor of Home Economics Education at the Pennsylvania State University. Through her topic "Working With Youth," Dr. Murray will examine the stereotypes surrounding today's youth, their values and how these stereotypes interfere with parent/youth communication.

Participants from the seven counties of Northeast Pennsylvania will select from these afternoon workshops: "Grow Your Own," a green thumb experience; "Youth In Action," a creative communi-

ty development involvement; "Crafts Caravan," a session on new and exciting crafts projects; "Let's Sew," a fun sewing program for non-sewers; and "What is a 4-H Leader?," a view of the role of the volunteer in 4-H.

"The Adult Leader's Forum is open to 4-H adult leaders, 4-H teen leaders, youth agency staff members, school principals, school instructors, parents and any other adults interested in young people," emphasized Holly L. Ostlund, urban youth agent.

For more information and registration forms contact Holly at the 4-H office, The Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Service of Luzerne County, 822-1109 or 455-4141.

Your Individual Horoscope

Frances Drake



What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth Sign. FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1979:

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
The temptation is to spend on non-essentials. Joint financial dealings could turn unexpectedly — a conservative approach is best.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Partners or close allies may be feeling out-of-sorts. A quiet dinner at a tried-and-true place may be what the doctor would order.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Chances are you'll get more work done at home than in the office. Protect health and nerves from upset. Watch your tongue.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Not the best time to ask for extra time off. Show others that you are serious. Flippant remarks will turn off would-be admirers.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
Unexpected visitors or news from afar could upset the domestic routine. Shy away from expenditures requiring capital outlay.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Avoid making hasty decisions regarding financial questions. Weigh your words carefully. Don't be too critical or there'll be repercussions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Avoid confrontation with others about financial matters. Small expenditures could mount up, leaving you in a negative frame of mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Don't let hasty action lead to accident. Old friends may prove more reliable

than newly met acquaintances. Forego sudden decisions about romance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Avoid risky romantic entanglements. Keep your mind on career interests where prudence leads to moderate gains. Don't be aroused by suspicion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Unexpected visitors could upset your routine. Unruly guests could make your home a disaster area. Old advisers give sound advice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Superiors need to be handled with kid gloves. Avoid discussing office business with unconcerned parties. Protect finances, valuables.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
Unexpected expenditures may crop up. Include close ones in travel plans or arguments will ensue. Listen to others' opinions.

YOU, BORN TODAY are artistic and musical. It is important that you like your work — otherwise, you tend to lose interest. Often, you seek practical outlets for your creative ability and will be found in such fields as interior design and publishing. Ambitious, you'd like to be in a position of leadership, though at times you are dictatorial. You would do well as head of your own business for you are a good manager. Think big and trust in your intuition to lead you to the top. Birthdate of: Howard Keel, actor; Eudora Welty, author; and Thomas Jefferson, U.S. president.

Today in history

Today is Thursday, April 12, the 102nd day of 1979. There are 263 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:
On this date in 1961, the Soviet Union became the first nation to put a man in space. Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made a safe landing after one orbit of the earth.

On this date:
In 1861, the U.S. Civil War was beginning as Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter at Charleston, S.C.
In 1916, American forces under General John Pershing were fighting in Mexico against forces led by Pancho Villa.

In 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt died, and Harry Truman was sworn in as the 33rd President.

In 1971, an American table tennis team was on a visit to mainland China, having received an unexpected invitation from the Communists.

Ten years ago: The Communists in South Vietnam said there could be no peace without a total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Five years ago: Israeli troops raided several villages in southern Lebanon and blew up houses they said belonged to guerrilla sympathizers.

One year ago: Fighting was intensifying between right-wing Christians and leftists in Lebanon's capital, Beirut.

Today's birthdays: Chairman Charles Schultze of the President's Council of Economic Advisers is 55 years old. Pitcher Don Sutton of the Los Angeles Dodgers is 34.

Thought for today: Habit is the flywheel of civilization. — Henry James, American philosopher and writer, 1811-1882.

Wilkes College Now Has 33 Buildings

Wilkes College came into being in 1933 as Bucknell Junior College. It had no buildings of its own, and classes were convened on the third floor in the building now owned by King's College across from the YM-YWCA on West Northampton Street. Today, Wilkes boasts of 33 buildings, a \$1,000,000 graduate science and research building under construction and a Fine Arts Center costing approximately \$600,000 in the offing. Between 1933 and 1963, however, much happened—and for the welfare of both the college and the community.

Reminiscing on his early days in Wilkes-Barre, Dr. Eugene S. Farley, president of Wilkes since it was founded, had this to say: "The first time I was invited to address a luncheon group in Wilkes-Barre, I found myself seated between a Lehigh graduate and a Lafayette graduate. Both of them were good citizens of the area and both loyal to their alma maters. Before I spoke, they quizzed me as to why Bucknell University had established a junior college in Wilkes-Barre, thus depriving their alma mater of a source of supply.

"I have long since forgotten what I had planned to say on that occasion, but I can well remember a few remarks that I made. They were made with the full consciousness that their impact would determine whether I would remain in the community. The gist of these remarks was that, 'this is the first community in the United States that has had a college thrust upon it by a small group of leaders and an outside university. Most communities recognize that unless they develop their young people, there is no future for the community. This is as true in Wilkes-Barre as for any other city in the United States.'

"Fortunately, my statements were well received and the presidents of both Lehigh and Lafayette, at later dates, encouraged their alumni to support our efforts to develop a college that would serve the area and the state."

First Gift from Roberts

In 1933, when the junior college was first established, six men from the community were invited to join the Bucknell board of trustees and to serve

necessary for the college to establish a four-year program and toward this end the trustees conducted a fund raising campaign for \$150,000 in 1944; another for \$400,000 in 1946. Some \$575,000 was raised in these two campaigns and additional gifts were received afterward. As a result, the college was in a position to seek a charter from the State and to establish itself as an independent four-year college. This was in 1947.

One of the factors that motivated this move was the awareness that the college could not prosper unless the economic trends of the community were reversed. Post-war years dictated the policy of the college in that it would in every way encourage and participate in efforts to redevelop the economy of the community and of Northeastern Pennsylvania while simultaneously developing its educational program and to improve educational resources.

one-third of this group have doctorates and another third, with the financial assistance of the college, are working for their doctorates. In order to attain and hold highly trained and competent faculty, the college offers loans and scholarships for graduate study to younger members of the faculty who have indicated a desire to remain with the college.

Wilkes College offers the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the Humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences; also the degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Physics, Medical Technology, Commerce and Finance, and in Art, Business, Music, Elementary, Secondary and Nursing Education. The College offers degrees of Master of Science in Chemistry and Physics. Scholarship aid is available for those who qualify.

A comparatively young institution of higher learning, Wilkes



One of the many fine buildings which dot the Wilkes College campus.

WILKES

(Continued from Page 53)

Students Education Association and the Advertising Club of Wilkes-Barre are only a few organizations who use the facilities of the college for meetings and conventions.

It is from Parrish Hall, however, that the community receives greatest impact in the industrial, governmental and business areas. Here is the home of the Institute of Municipal Government, Labor-Management-Citizens Committee and the Community Research Center.

Founded in 1951, the Institute began as an adjunct of the Political Science Department. In early years it received limited support from the college and from local officials. In 1960, the Ford Foundation recognized its importance and provided a substantial grant to expand its pro-

been able to obtain funds to support such a program. It was then that the Ford Foundation offered temporary support and Community Research Center was established. Since then, it has been developing a series of studies that reveal the economic trends of the community and point up the causes of our weaknesses and the possible solutions to these problems.

In addition, studies for special groups of the community have been made. The center also cooperates with city officials, Susquehanna River Basin Association and the Welfare Planning Council. On several occasions, it has completed surveys for business firms. By and large, the center overcomes a handicap imposed by inadequate information and creates a better understanding of important community problems.

Soon Wilkes College will be in a position to attract new in-

as a special junior college committee. By 1938, it was apparent that more responsibility must be centered in the community. As a natural consequence, 15 persons were invited to form a junior college board and complete responsibility for the college was placed in their hands.

First gift of money to the college came from a retired executive of the F. W. Woolworth Company, Daniel Roberts. This was in 1936. In 1937, the first buildings were given to the college by Mrs. John N. Conyngham and Admiral and Mrs. Harold R. Stark to become Conyngham and Chase Halls, respectively. These gifts made it possible to move from the second and third floors of the West Northampton Street building and to "set up shop" in the two buildings on South River Street.

This acquisition also required a clear statement of policy regarding the future of the junior college. Dr. Arnaud Marts, president of Bucknell at the time and today a member of the Wilkes College Board of Trustees, recommended to the Bucknell trustees that a new board of the junior college be established and given responsibility for the future development of the Wilkes-Barre institution.

Air Corps Aided

In 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Weckesser presented the college with what is now Weckesser Hall, and Alan Kirby made possible Kirby Hall when he gave the college the stately mansion formerly occupied by his late father, Fred Morgan Kirby, co-founder of F. W. Woolworth Company.

Because of these gifts, the college was in a position to seek in 1942 the assignment of the Air Corps contingent. Without this, it is doubtful that the new college would have survived the lean war years. As it was, the Sixth College Training Detachment of the Air Corps tided the college over this period. Thus, when the war ended, the college was in a position to resume its normal activities in good shape.

Returning veterans made it

This decision came when the college had less than one million dollars in assets, and while the college, according to its president, could do nothing to change the direction of economic and population trends. It could, however, work constructively with other groups to create those conditions which attract new industries to the area.

When it became apparent in 1938 that local responsibility was needed to encourage and assure the growth of the new junior college, Dr. Arnaud Marts invited a group of 15 citizens of Wilkes-Barre to constitute themselves as a local board of trustees. The late Gilbert McClintock, attorney at law and one of the outstanding community leaders of Wilkes-Barre for many years, served successively as chairman of the Junior College Committee of the Bucknell Board of Trustees, the Junior College Board, and, finally, the Wilkes College Board of Trustees. He was motivated by his great faith in young people and often expressed a feeling of obligation to use the wealth that he had acquired from coal for a 100 years to benefit the young people growing up in the anthracite region. Under his leadership, steady progress was made, and when he died in 1959, his estate was willed to the college. He was succeeded as chairman of the Wilkes board by Admiral Harold R. Stark, USN Retired.

So it was that McClintock's long stewardship was passed on to a man with national and international experience and a former resident of the community, who during World War two was Chief of Naval Operations. It is because of his leadership that funds for the new science building (Stark Hall) were given to the college and that many commitments for the construction of the Graduate and Research Center were made.

Because the college is young, it has been necessary to search continuously for able faculty members who would form a nucleus of dedicated instructors by whom standards and traditions could be created. About

has approximately 4,000 alumni scattered through the United States and its roster of more than 1,000 students each year continually swells this figure bit by bit.

In 1941, after Kirby Hall was added to the campus, the following buildings were acquired through donors: 1945, Gies Hall (anonymous); Barre Hall (Reuben H. Levy and Andrew J. Sordoni); Zebulon Butler Hall (purchased); 1947, corner plot—South and South Franklin Streets (Andrew J. Sordoni); Lecture Hall (new construction) 1948, Timothy Pickering Hall (purchased); 1949, Sterling Hall (W. Carl Sterling-bequest); 1950, Gymnasium (new construction); President's Home (purchased); 1951, McClintock Hall (Gilbert S. McClintock); 1952, Sturdevant Hall (purchased); 1953, Hollenback Hall (Ann Hollenback-bequest); 1955, Harding House (purchased); Warner Hall (Daniel R. Warner) Dining Commons (new construction); 1956, 159 South Franklin Street (purchased); Gore Hall (purchased); Parking Area, Wright Street (purchased); 1957, Catlin Hall (purchased); Weiss Hall (purchased); Stark Hall (new construction); 1958, Chapman and Parish Hall (purchased); 1959, Denison Hall (purchased); Guidance Center (bequest); 1960, 157 South Franklin Street (purchased); Athletic Field, Kingston, (purchased); 1961, Slocum Hall (purchased); Miner Hall (gift); 1962, Sturdevant Hall Addition (purchased).

Wilkes College Board of Trustees include: Admiral Harold R. Stark, chairman; Arnaud C. Marts, first vice-chairman; Andrew J. Sordoni, second vice-chairman; Charles H. Miners, Jr., secretary; and James P. Harris treasurer; William Weir Boyd, alumni representative; Frank Burnside, Mrs. Charles E. Clift, William L. Conyngham, Mrs. Frank G. Darte, Dr. Dr. Samuel M. Davenport, Miss Annette Evans, Mrs. Julia T. Faber, John Farr, former Governor John S. Fine, Harry F. Goeringer, Andrew Hourigan, Jr., Dr. Joseph J. Kocyan, Mary R. Koons, Joseph F. Lester,

gram.

Fundamental purpose of IMG is to help American democracy stronger by guaranteeing the semi-autonomous structure of American local government, so long as it can retain the capacity to solve its own problems.

In 1961, IMG inaugurated as a pilot program an annual community growth conference for government officials, industrialists and business men throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. The conference was such a signal success that it has become an annual affair.

Courses for police and fire department officials, councilmen, commissioners—in fact, local government officials in all avenues—are offered from September through May at no charge. These are presented in cooperation with the Public Service Institute, Department of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Labor-Management-Citizens Committee which has gained national recognition is directed by Dr. Samuel Rosenberg, chairman of the Department of Economics of the College. It is supported jointly by Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce and the Ford Foundation.

Settle Labor Disputes

On the committee are 10 representatives of labor, 10 of management and 10 representing the public. It works quietly, but over the years, it has become most effective in settling labor-management disputes, and in many instances it has averted work stoppages before they began.

For some time, the college felt that a research center should be established to serve the area. Until two years ago, however, the administration had never

Reuben H. Levy, Thomas F. Morgan, Jr., F. Ellsworth Parkhurst, Jr., President Judge Frank L. Pinola, Rev. Charles S. Roush, Joseph J. Savitz, alumni representative; Louis Shaffer, Mrs. Esther Weckesser Walker, Charles B. Waller and Aaron Weiss.

dusky to the area through the new one million dollar addition to Stark (Science) Hall as a graduate and scientific research center. Within two years, a new dormitory and dining hall will be constructed on Wright Street as part of the Urban Redevelopment Program; and before many months, the new Fine Arts Building will be in process of construction.

Wilkes College continues to grow, but even now, its facilities are inadequate to supply higher education to a young America, because this education. And as Wilkes College grows, so will Greater Wilkes-Barre.

—Greater Wilkes-Barre—

(Articles relating to the increasing number of "highly competitive" colleges have been appearing in newspapers across the nation. We have reproduced one of these articles, feeling you would be interested in noting that Wilkes College is included in the listing).

NEW YORK POST, SATURDAY, MAY 28 1966



THE BLACKBOARD

'Competitive' Colleges

BERNARD BARD

The number of "highly competitive" colleges is increasing.

Four years ago the College Discovery Index, published by Columbia University Press, listed 58 as the most hotly sought-after colleges. A new edition, published this week, raises the total to 92.

These are the colleges that reject many applicants with B and even A averages, that draw many freshmen from the top tenth of their high-school graduating classes, and that expect 600 scores and above on SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Tests).

The index of top schools, part of the new Third Edition of The New American Guide to Colleges by Gene R. Hawes, lists colleges and graduate schools in order of increasing accessibility.

The top schools, by region are:

MIDDLE ATLANTIC (N.J., N.Y., Pa.): Allegheny, Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Carnegie Institute of Technology's College of Fine Arts, Colgate, Columbia College, Cornell, Cooper Union, Dickinson, Franklin and Marshall, Hamilton, Haverford, Juilliard, Montclair State (N.J.), Pratt Institute's Art School, Princeton, Rutgers (Douglass College), Sarah Lawrence, State University of N.Y. at Albany, Swarthmore, Union, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, U. S. Military Academy, Vassar, Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, Wells, William Smith, Wilkes.

NEW ENGLAND: Amherst, Bates, Bennington, Boston College's College of Arts & Sciences, Bowdoin, Brandeis, Brown, Clark, Colby, Connecticut,

cut, Dartmouth, Harvard, Massachusetts College of Art, M.I.T., Middlebury, Mount Holyoke, Pembroke, Radcliffe, Simmons, Smith, State College at Bridgewater (Mass.) and at Worcester (Mass.), Trinity (Conn.), Tufts, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Wheaton, William, Yale College and Yale School of Engineering.

SOUTH ATLANTIC (Del., D.C., Fla., Ga., Md., N.C., S.C., Va., W. Va.): Agnes Scott, William and Mary, Davidson, Duke, Goucher, Hollins, John Hopkins, New College, Sweet Briar, Trinity (D. C.), Washington and Lee, West Va. University's School of Pharmacy.

EAST NORTH CENTRAL (Ill., Ind., Mich., Ohio, Wisc.): Northwestern's College of Arts and Sciences, Medill School of Journalism, and Technological Institute; Oberlin; University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music.

EAST SOUTH CENTRAL (Ala., Ky., Miss., Tenn.) Alice Lloyd.

WEST NORTH CENTRAL (Ia., Kan., Minn., Mo., Neb., N. Dak., S. Dak.): Carleton, Grinnell.

WEST SOUTH CENTRAL (Ariz., La., Okla., Tex.): Rice.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (Ariz., Colo., Ida., Mont., Nev., N.M., Utah, Wyo.): Colorado College, U.S. Air Force Academy.

PACIFIC (Alaska, Calif., Hawaii, Oreg., Wash.): California Inst. of Technology, Claremont Mens, Deep Springs, Harvey Mudd, Occidental, Pomona, Reed, Stanford, University of Southern California's School of Architecture and Fine Arts and School of Engineering, University of Redlands.

What can a student expect in

trying to crash the gates of these academic fortresses? Bates, for instance, said 60 per cent of its entering class ranked in the top tenth of their senior year at high school, with averages of 610 on the SAT-Verbal and 622 on the SAT-Mathematical (800 is perfect.)

Occidental said 80 per cent were in the top tenth, and SAT scores averaged 650.

All the 3,658 colleges and graduate schools are listed in the book. Each entry gives a rounded picture of the school itself, and 50 kinds of facts helpful to candidates or their admissions counsellors.

In November 1947 Dr. Eugene S. Farley was formally inaugurated President of Wilkes College.

In 1950 a new, ultramodern, \$250,000 gymnasium was added to the Wilkes campus. It seats a maximum crowd of 2,200.

In 1955 an extension to the college Commons, or cafeteria, was added. It is used by both dormitory and day students. It accomodates 550 people at one time. Large picture windows, knotty pine and modern decor furnish students with a pleasant place to relax during their free hours.

In 1957 a new science building, Stark Hall was completed and dedicated. Complimentary messages were received by such prominent men as President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Winston Churchill. Stark Hall is a three story building which contains class rooms, student and research laboratories, a greenhouse on the roof, and necessary facilities in the fields of biology, chemistry, and physics. It has been assessed at \$1,050,000.

In 1958 the former Glen Alden Building and property was purchased. This includes a five story building, adjoining President's home, and a large parking lot. It was financed through generous contributions including gifts from Albert A. List Foundation Inc., and RKO Theatres Foundation.

Today the Wilkes campus has over 30 buildings and occupies almost one square block of Wilkes-Barre. The campus plant includes old homes which have been presented to the college and converted into dormitories, administrative offices, and classrooms.

From an original faculty and administration of 18, the numbers have swelled to ~~approximately 100~~ (plus ~~part-time~~ part-time instructors) ~~and an administrative staff of 100~~

Enrollment is limited to 1125 students at the present time, with approximately three-fourths of the student body being local students who commute from local and surrounding areas of Wyoming Valley.

CURRICULA

Wilkes offers programs leading to the Bachelor's Degree in liberal arts, biology, chemistry, commerce and finance, and elementary, secondary, business, and nursing education. Terminal programs in music, secretarial work, medical secretarial work, laboratory and medical technology, dental work, engineering, and physics are open to the student who wishes to spend two years of college at Wilkes.

ACCREDITMENT

Wilkes College is accredited by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Pennsylvania, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the University of the State of New York.

Year	Donor	Items	Value
1937-38	Mrs. John D. Conyngham	Conyngham Hall	\$60,000
	Admiral + Mrs. Harold Stark	Chase Hall	\$50,000
1938-39	Mr. Frederick J. Wickers	Wickers Hall	35,000
1941-42	Mr. Allan P. Kirby	Kirby Hall	92,000
1945-46	Mr. Marian Ahlborn, Dr. Henry Carr + Mrs. Roccena Wolfe	Ashley Hall	23,000
1949-50	Mr. W. C. Stirling	Stirling Hall	73,384
1951-52	Mr. Gilbert S. McClintock	McClintock Hall	50,000
1952-53	Mrs. Anna Kollenback	Kollenback Hall	36,000
1954-55	Mr. Daniel Roberts Warner	Warner Hall	25,000
1957-58	Wyoming Valley Society of Art + Sciences	Lot, West South + South R. Atts	50,000

Plant, Property + Equipment.

Year	Property	Total Value (Land, Building, equip)
1937	Chase Hall	9128,999.
	Chase Theatre	19,014.
	Conyngham Hall	140,936.
	Conyngham Annex	47,947.00
1938	Susquehanna Hall	56,885
1941	Kirby Hall	375,083
1945	Leis Hall	98,000
	Barre Hall	46,876
1946	Ashley Hall	43,418
	Butler Hall	68,470
1947	Parking lot West S. + S. Franklin	25,065
1948	Pickering Hall	58,437
1949	Stirling Hall	75,083
1950	Gymnasium	292,967
	President's Home	49,158
1951	McClintock Hall	88,253
1952	Sturdevant Hall	71,596
1953	Kollenback Hall	44,325

Plant Property & Equip.		
Year	Building	Total Value (Equip, build, land)
1955	Boarding Hall	\$ 34,033
	Warner Hall	42,428
	Dinning Commons	179,726
1956	Gore Hall	32,965
	Parking Lot Wright St.	5,462
1957	Lot - West of S. Kern St.	50,000
	Cablin Hall	46,162
	Norris Hall	47,573
1957	Stark Hall	1,287,493
1958	Chapman Hall	86,788
1958	Parrish Hall	390,570
1959	Demison Hall	40,998
	Guidance Center	32,000
1960	Athletic Field House	163,331
	Tennis Courts	23,780
1961	Stocum Hall	34,595
	Miner Hall	30,948
1962	Shredmont Hall	71,596
	Parking Lot Wright St.	7,049
1963	Snack Bar	50,815
	Weckesser Hall	527,235
1964	Science Research Center	\$ 1,018,105
	- Grad. School	
	Athletic Field	38,374
1965	Fine Arts Center	?

1935 to 1939

Chase Hall	-	1937
Chase Theater	-	1937
Conyngham Hall	-	1937
Weckesser Hall	-	1938

1940 to 1944

Library	-	1941
---------	---	------

1945 to 1949

Pickering Hall	-	1949
Gies Hall	-	1945
Ashley Hall	-	1946
Butler Hall	-	1946
Barre Hall	-	1945
Sterling Hall	-	1949

1950 - 1954

Gymnasium	-	1950
Hollenback Hall	-	1953
McClintock Hall	-	1951
Sturdevant Hall	-	1952
Harding Hall	-	1954

1955 - present

Gore Hall	-	1956
Cafeteria	-	1955
Warner Hall	-	1955
Stark Hall	-	1957
Weiss Hall	-	1957
Catlin Hall	-	1957
Chapman Hall	-	1958
Parrish Hall	-	1958
Art Building	-	1956 (It has since been razed)

Memo From: _____

Jocelyn Reese
Coordinator, Purchasing/Contracting

9-17-93

Mark,

Here is information on
Wilkes building descriptions and
construction dates.

Jocie



WILKES UNIVERSITY • WILKES-BARRE • PENNSYLVANIA 18766

717/824-4651



Quick Note



TO: _____

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

"WHILE YOU WERE OUT"

OF: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ EXT: _____

() TELEPHONED () RETURNED YOUR CALL

() PLEASE CALL () WILL CALL AGAIN

() CALLED TO SEE YOU

MESSAGE: _____

Through the years

by Jane Manganello

The year was 1936, Bucknell Junior College in Wilkes-Barre was just three years old, and already in financial difficulty. The fledgling College was operating as a satellite of Bucknell University in Lewisburg.

It was really no surprise that the young school was in financial straits, in fact, to many, it was a surprise that the school had survived its first three years. When the idea of a junior college was introduced in 1933, it was done with reserve. People were of the opinion that neither the economy nor the area could support the venture. By 1936 it seemed those opinions were justified.

The unemployed constituted about 18% of the population and there was little evidence of hope or help for the anthracite region of Pennsylvania. Coal was being replaced by oil and gas and the Northeast was not then equipped to search for new industry. It seemed bad timing for the establishment of an institution of higher education, especially in an area where almost all would be first generation college students.

The outlook was bleak and the media predicted the demise of the new school. But something happened during that year, something that has become tradition. The College and the community joined in a concentrated effort to make things happen. A fund-raising effort aimed at keeping the school open was initiated. Almost immediately,

gifts of cash and property were being given. The Community wanted its College . . . The College dedicated itself to the community. The relationship is constant.

The Junior College remained open, and in 1947 was granted the charter creating the four year, coeducational, liberal arts institution christened Wilkes College.

There were periodic rough spots during the early years which did not disappear with the granting of a charter. But, Wilkes not only weathered these times, it managed to grow into the viable resource that now has great economic and social impact on the region which helped it grow.

A recent study indicates that students from the area spend approximately half a million dollars a year in Wyoming Valley. Campus visitors spend an additional \$175,000 annually. Materials purchased by the College locally amount to another \$175,000 and utility bills alone constitute another \$600,000. The study shows that over the last fifteen years, Wilkes has been able to pour back into the community, over fifteen million dollars, through refurbishment, renovation and new building construction.

Equally important as economics, is the cultural and social impact generated by the various programs which have surfaced over the last fifty years. So many of these programs started as college-community affiliations as need was recognized



by either the College or members of the community. Personnel from the College work with the Community in almost every off-campus event: The annual Cherry Blossom Festival, The Fine Arts Fiesta, Community Concert Series; YMCA/YWCA events; Jewish Community Center events. Under the sponsorship of student government the Wilkes College Concert and Lecture Series has become one of the outstanding cultural arts presentations for the area. The series offers a diverse program of educational and enriching programs to both campus and community, free of charge.

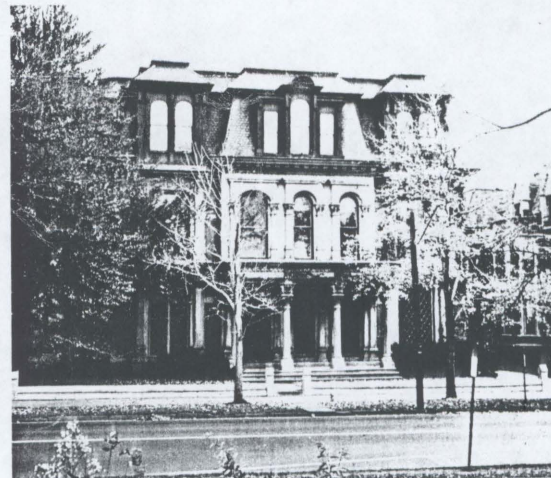
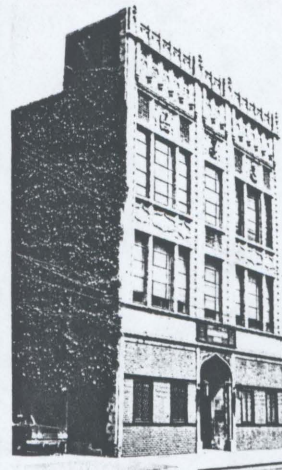
The facilities on the Wilkes campus are probably the best graphic example of how, during the early years, the community supported the College in its efforts to survive. Names on buildings throughout the 23 area campus are testament to the memories of those who gave so much to the school: The Sordoni Art Gallery, in memory of Andrew Sordoni, referred to by Dr. Farley as "A constant friend and benefactor;" the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts and Darte Hall, the music building adjoining the CPA, both structures made possible by the quiet generosity of Mrs. Darte; Stark Learning Center, in memory of Admiral Harold R. Stark. The list goes on, Weiss, McClintock, Evans, Weckesser, Kirby, Conyngham, Roth, and so many others who gave not only financially, but gave of themselves.

These facilities are used daily by both campus and community people to enrich and educate or to house students. The Sordoni Art Gallery brings to the area 12 exhibitions a year in all media. The stage of the Darte Center for the Performing Arts will this year, welcome not only Wilkes presentations but will be the

place where hundreds of community productions and events will be shown.

Today, 50 years after its tenuous beginnings, Wilkes College is facing another of its rough spots, in an economic atmosphere akin to that of its early years. However, in a recent address to the media, President Robert S. Capin voiced a definite difference in attitude. He said, in part, "Wilkes will

survive, of that there is no doubt." Under Capin's leadership, in a time when many small colleges are closing their doors, Wilkes is currently on sound financial ground. The early doubts, the fears, the tenuous start have been replaced by confidence. Now as Wilkes celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is apparent that the Community still wants its College . . . The College is still dedicated to its Community.



SUBURBAN NEWS

HUNLOCK CREEK, PA
WEEKLY 12,800
DEC 15 1999



BURRELLE'S

203
XZE..

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XX....

PO25FF
by Kenneth Brocious
The year 1983 brought together Anne Parkhurst and the creation of the Bay Window Antique Gifts & Collectibles shop located in Shavertown. Parkhurst said she acquired a few discarded windows from a building on Franklin Street, being demolished by Wilkes University. She refurbished the windows for the barn she was constructing to house her antique shop.

The refurbishing of the discarded items became the focus of this unique antique shop. With artist and creative minds making up most of the shop owners within the Bay Window establishment, many one-of-a-kind items can be found there.

Refurbished or re-created discarded items aren't all you can find there. Many fine antiques and gift selections can also be found mingled with the original works of art.

A collection of individual shops makes up this unique collection. Included are: fine antiques, old Quilt Folk art, collectible dolls and bears, floral art, hand-painted clothing, antique tools, Depression glass, Fiesta jewelry and accessories, gourmet coffee and vinegars, natural skin care products, candles, original art works and pottery, and gifts for all occasions and all seasons.



Anne Parkhurst, owner of the Bay Window Antique & Collectibles shop, in Shavertown, displays a teddy bear and one of the beautiful dolls customers can purchase at her business.

the BAY WINDOW

Another unique feature of the Bay Window Shop is in the way they display their merchandise. Most of the goods available in the shop are set

up in small room settings, giving the appearance of a room possibly in your own home. This type of display leads the customer to ideas. Ideas they can

use to place an item in a room in their way, in their home, or a one-of-a-kind gift for the home of a special person in their life!

APR 10, 1994

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCRANTON, PA

SUN - \$4.000



PETER BOHLIN
Waverly
resident

Designer's Honored As Best

The Northeastern Pennsylvania design firm of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson has been selected to receive The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) 1994 Architecture Firm Award. Founding principal Peter Bohlin is a resident of Waverly.

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, with offices in Wilkes-Barre, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Seattle, will be honored on May 13 at the 1994 AIA National Convention in Los Angeles.

An exhibition of their drawings will open in June at the Heinz Architectural Center in Pittsburgh and will tour to Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Seattle, Portland and the Sordani Gallery in Wilkes-Barre.

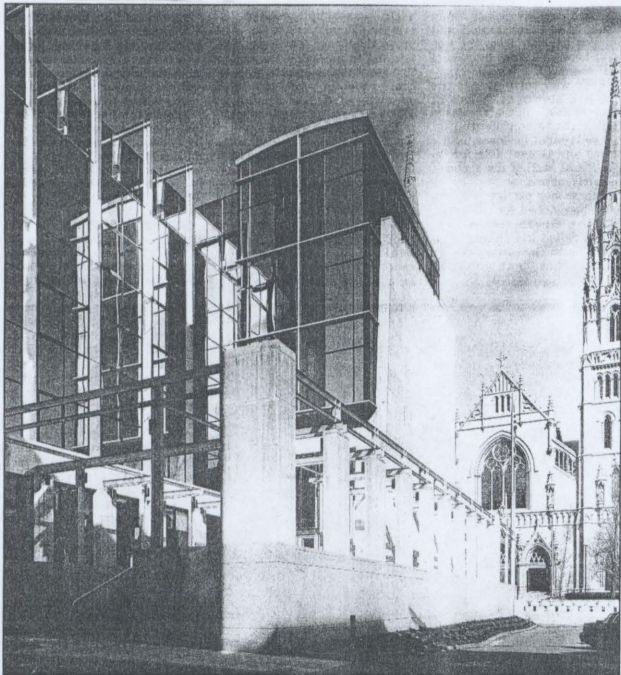
In the soon-to-be-published book "The Architecture of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson" (AIA Press), AIA Gold Medal architect Joseph Esherick, FAIA, writes:

"The firm is not seduced by arcane ideology, nor have they been tempted to apply any wit or humor. What is remarkable is the degree to which they achieve the highest possible standards of construction, of energy management, of sophisticated program requirements and still preserve such freshness and openness."

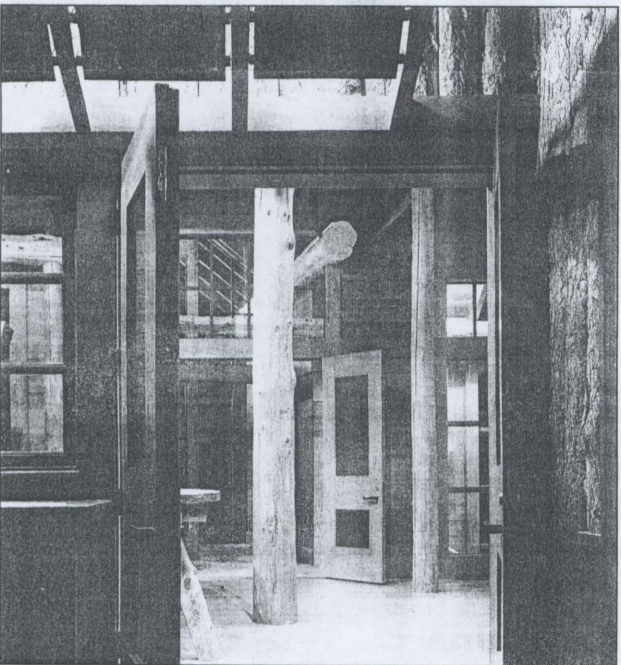
Bohlin commented, "The AIA Architecture Firm Award is a wonderful affirmation of our belief that exceptional architecture springs from responding with the full depth of our intellect and intuition to the particular circumstances of each situation. It celebrates our clients and friends, whose support and encouragement have enabled the rich variety of projects we've worked on — as well as all the extraordinary individuals who have been part of our practice over the years."

The award, the highest honor the AIA can bestow upon a firm, is given annually to one practice in the United States that has produced distinguished architecture consistently for at least 10 years. Previous winners include I.M. Pei & Partners, Cesar Pelli & Associates, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, Mitchell/Giurgola Architects, Edward Larabee Barnes Associates, Venturi Rauch & Scott Brown, and James Stewart Polshek & Partners.

Known in the region for the King's College William G. McGowan School of Business, Wilkes University's Marts Athletic and Conference Center, InterMetro Industries Headquarters, downtown Wilkes-Barre renovations and numerous residential projects, the Bohlin firm has received more than 100 international, national and regional design awards. Among these are National AIA Honor awards for Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute, the Shelly Ridge Girl Scout Center near Philadelphia, and the Gaffney Residence in rural Pennsylvania.



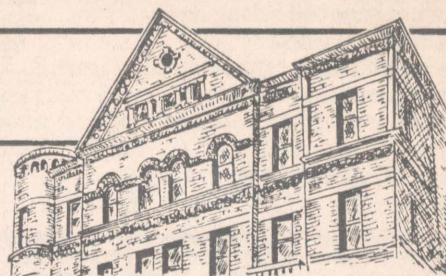
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson won an American Institute of Architects' award for its design of the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Below is a portion of the firm's House in the Adirondacks which was featured in the February edition of House Beautiful.



Other celebrated work by the firm includes projects for educational, corporate, cultural and Bucks County Free Library, which won a 1991 AIA American Library Association Building later formed a partnership with Philadelphia-based architects John Larkin and Bernard Cy-

CITY HALL

Tracing the City's Name And Finding Some Surprises



The postman dropped by the other day with a letter asking about the name, Wilkes-Barre. Seems the letter writer, a college student, is working on a project tracing the origin of names of U.S. cities.

Of particular interest to the student are cities which bear hyphenated or two-word monikers. Those cities, she points out in her letter, "are usually named for two people."

Determined to satisfy our scholar's request — she asked us where she could find choice research material on Wilkes-Barre's name and whether we have any former newspaper articles pertaining to the topic — we sent her some facts we uncovered in Sheldon Spear's recently published book, "Chapters in Wyoming Valley History."

Although we already knew Wilkes-Barre was named for British political dissidents John Wilkes and Isaac Barre, the book provided so many interesting details about the two men (and even a few surprises) that our research came as quite a history lesson to us.

And so, armed with new knowledge about Wilkes-Barre's namesakes, we've decided to pass along some of the more interesting tidbits we learned from Spear's chronicle of Wyoming Valley's history:

Perhaps most interesting was Spear's account of John Wilkes (1727-97), a colorful character known for his outrageous behavior. Called "strikingly ugly" by Spear, Wilkes was nonetheless a successful womanizer. In fact, he was known to boast that he could "talk away" his face in half an hour.

Once told by a political enemy that he would probably die of syphilis, the quick-witted Wilkes retorted: "That depends, my lord, on whether I embrace your principles or your mistress."

Also known for his love of gambling, Wilkes sharp tongue manifested itself on another occasion when, vying for a seat on parliament, he was told by someone "I'd rather vote for the devil." "Naturally," shot back Wilkes, "but if your friend is not standing, may I hope for your support?"

Although his biting sarcasm and vices make for

much of his legacy, Wilkes became popular with American colonists after becoming the focus of a movement which called for greater respect of their rights.

A classic anti-establishment figure, Wilkes was eventually admitted to Parliament, but not until after enduring the persecution of the British government for his attacks against it in his newspaper, *North Britton*.

Thus, despite never setting foot in America, Wilkes became a hero in the colonies, where he was perceived as "a victim of a conspiracy against the freedom of Englishmen on both sides of the Atlantic," Spear wrote.

Unlike Wilkes, Barre did spend a short time in America, even traveling through Pennsylvania while recuperating from a disfiguring wound he received fighting for England during the French and Indian War. But his military performance wasn't enough to earn him a promotion because he lacked political connections.

He did, however, go on to earn election to Parliament and receive a lucrative appointment — only to later lose his status by joining forces with those critical of the government's treatment of Wilkes.

Barre (1726-1802), subsequently became a major defender of America, denouncing the Stamp Act, the first major British attempt at taxing the colonies. He also gave many dramatic speeches in support of the colonists, even proclaiming Americans "Sons of Liberty."

John Durkee, the leader of the Connecticut settlers who located to the Wyoming Valley in 1769, had so much admiration for Barre and Wilkes that he combined the names of the two men in conferring a designation on one of the Susquehanna Company's tiny settlements. And so it was that Wilkes-Barre — then spelled Wikesbarre — was born.

Interestingly, Wilkes and Barre were being similarly honored by the naming of other settlements at the time. They included: Wilkesborough, North Carolina; Wilkes County, Georgia; Barre, Massachusetts; and Barre, Vermont.

\$1,600,000 Loan Given To Wilkes

Federal Grant to Aid Construction Of Planned Campus

Federal approval yesterday of a \$1,600,000 loan moved Wilkes College a step nearer its announced aim to set up a planned campus.

The Federal grant will be used to construct a student union building and men's dormitory in the redevelopment area at Wright Street, Walter Mohr, Wilkes College director of development, announced.

Work may begin in March and be completed by September, it was indicated.

Construction of the buildings, particularly the dormitory, is slated to a projected development scheme being carried out by college officials, Mohr declared, and is predicated on an anticipated increase in Wilkes College enrollment. This increase, Mohr said, college officials believe will become partly evident within the next year, requiring the additional dormitory housing.

Mohr said while Wilkes College does not foresee an enrollment increase of some 250 male students—the dormitory planned will house 264—he explained that Wilkes officials are aiming their programming at a date in the future when the on-campus student body will undergo an appreciable increase.

Made available through Community Facilities Administration, Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency, the loan was announced through the Washington, D. C., office of U. S. Rep. Daniel J. Flood.

Construction of the two buildings will not begin until spring, Mohr said, but he added that preliminary plans have been prepared by Lacy, Atherton and Davis, architects. Contracts will not be awarded until final Federal approval has been obtained, he said.

The student union building also will contain a dining hall which may be used to serve meals to 350 persons at one seating or may accommodate a maximum of 700 persons for one meal at two seatings, said Mohr.

Combined space of the two buildings will be 70,000 square feet, Mohr said.

The buildings will be situated in what Wilkes College is developing as a general campus area, the director reported, and will be reached through an entry on Wright Street.

Plans presented to the college visualize the dormitory as a three-story structure that will provide living accommodations for 264 students and six proctors.

The student union building will be of one-story construction, circular in shape with small recreation rooms about the circumference with the main dining hall in the center.

The two buildings will be joined by a connecting passageway, providing easy and sheltered transit from one to the other in any weather.

Once building is started the college will have two major construction projects going. The other is the Wilkes College Center for Performing Arts which is being erected at South River and West South Streets.

dining hall

work will begin in
early 1965 for
completion 4/66

→ dining hall

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Work may begin in March and be completed by September, it was indicated.

Construction of the buildings, particularly the dormitory, is slated to a projected development scheme being carried out by college officials, Mohr declared, and is predicated on an anticipated increase in Wilkes College enrollment. This increase, Mohr said, college officials believe will become partly evident within the next year, requiring the additional dormitory housing.

Mohr said while Wilkes College does not foresee an enrollment increase of some 250 male students—the dormitory planned will house 264—he explained that Wilkes officials are aiming their programming at a date in the future when the on-campus student body will undergo an appreciable increase.

Made available through Community Facilities Administration, Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency, the loan was announced through the Washington, D. C., office of U. S. Rep. Daniel J. Flood.

Construction of the two buildings will not begin until spring, Mohr said, but he added that preliminary plans have been prepared by Lacy, Atherton and Davis, architects. Contracts will not be awarded until final Federal approval has been obtained, he said.

The student union building also will contain a dining hall which may be used to serve meals to 350 persons at one seating or may accommodate a maximum of 700 persons for one meal at two seatings, said Mohr.

Combined space of the two buildings will be 70,000 square feet, Mohr said.

The buildings will be situated in what Wilkes College is developing as a general campus area, the director reported, and will be reached through an entry on Wright Street.

Plans presented to the college visualize the dormitory as a three-story structure that will provide living accommodations for 264 students and six proctors.

The student union building will be of one-story construction, circular in shape with small recreation rooms about the circumference with the main dining hall in the center.

The two buildings will be joined by a connecting passageway, providing easy and sheltered transit from one to the other in any weather.

Once building is started the college will have two major construction projects going. The other is the Wilkes College Center for Performing Arts which is being erected at South River and West South Streets.

dining hall

*work will begin
early 1965 for
completion 4/6*

→ dining hall

Cable Stolen At Wilkes Site

Approximately 300 feet of cable and clamps was reported stolen this morning from the site of the Wilkes College Fine Arts Center, now under construction at South River and West South streets, city.

The cable, used in welding steel beams, was owned by Sordoni Construction Company and was left hanging overnight from a beam at the building site. Detectives John Johnson and Charles Wills stated the cable was apparently pulled to the ground, was wrapped into a pile, and was carted away. Theft was discovered at 8 this morning.

Cable, Clamps Stolen—Sordani Construction Company, which is building the Wilkes College Center for Performing Arts at South River and East South Streets, reported to police yesterday approximately 300 feet of cable and clamps were stolen from the site of the building sometime Wednesday night. The cable, left hanging overnight on a beam, is used in welding steel beams. The site is lit at night with spotlights to prevent thefts.