Flood - Recovery Story (newspaper clipping) 1972 August 31

BUSINESS RECOVERY IN KINGSTON—Plans for the extensive renovation of their buildings, as a first step in revitalization of Downtown Kingston, have been announced by Sheldon Greenbaum, owner of the Kingston Corners Building, and William Cherkes, owner of Ann-Will Garment Company. Ann-Will Garment also will construct a new manufacturing facility.

The Kingston Corners Building is at the northwest corner of this primary intersection and Ann-Will Garment Co., on the northeast corner.

Flood waters caused extensive damage to the basement and the first floor of the Kingston Corners Building which will be completely renovated.

The exterior of the building will be refaced in a bronze finish with the first floor being turned into a unified shopping center. There will be 20,000 square feet of commercial space available which would contain stores ranging in size from 750 square feet to 11,000 square feet. Off street parking will be available for more than 200 cars.

The shopping center will have 180 feet frontage on Wyoming Avenue and 210 feet frontage on Market Street. The upper two floors will continue to be used for office space.

William Cherkes, owner, Ann-Will Garment Company, said the firm will continue in operation on the second floor while rebuilding.

The existing frame building on the northeast corner will be removed and a new manufacturing facility containing approximately 8,000 square feet will be constructed. First floor commercial space of approximately 3,000 square feet will be available for rental.

Grosek and Sons Construction is contractor for Ann-Will Garment building and Spillman Farmer Architects have designed both buildings.

Cherkes said: "There is no question that 'Agnes' has been our worst disaster, but we of Wyoming Valley are no strangers to difficult times. In the early days, when I was active with the Industrial Fund, bringing the dress industry here to bolster our sagging economy, we used to say 'the man who knocks this community admits he is a failure'. This is truer now.

"If all of us will do our small share, we will rise to a stronger and better community.

"We have been encouraged and helped by the First Valley Bank's knowledge and experience, as have all the merchants in the Kingston area with the kind of help we never had before.

"Kingston Corners has 53,000 cars a day passing by, and you can't go South from this area without passing Kingston Corners.

'Sheldon Greenbaum and I feel Kingston will become the showplace of the Valley".

$6,800,000 Rebuilding Work Permits Issued

Immensity of the damage suffered by buildings in Wilkes-Barre City as a result of the June 23 flood was stressed Wednesday when Sordoni Construction Company filed applications at the City Building Inspector's office at City Hall for seven separate permits for reconstruction work costing in excess of $6,740,000.

Largest of the permits was for repairs to 55 flood-damaged buildings of Wilkes College at a cost of $5,000,000. Work has been started on some of the buildings so they can be made ready for occupancy when school starts in late September. It is anticipated additional permits will be taken out for electrical repairs in the various buildings.

To eliminate a lot of paper work, Sordoni listed all of the buildings on the one $5,000,000 permit. Buildings where work will be done include:

Parrish Hall, 15 S. River; Equipment Warehouse, R. 16 S. River; Chapman Hall, 24 S. River; Snack Bar, R. 34 S. River; Guidance and Placement, 34 S. River; Mc Clintock Hall, 44 S. River; Sterling Hall, 72 S. River; Catlin Hall, 92 S. River; Weiss Hall, 98 S. River; Conyngham Annex, R. 120 S. River; Chancellor's Residence, 146 S. River; Chase Hall, 184 S. River; Kirby Hall, 202 S. River; Dining Commons, 75 W. South; Chase Annex, R. 184 S. River; Church Hall, 187 S. Franklin; Stark Hall, Rear 150-180 S. River.

Dorothy Dickson Darte Hall and Center for the Performing Arts, Cor. S. River and W. South Sts.; President'ss Residence, 30 W. River; Women's Dormitory, 36 W. River; Ross Hall, 251 S. River; Sullivan Hall, 271-273 S. River; 248-250 S. River; Men's Dormitory, 252-254 S. River; Men's Dormitory, 262-264 S. River; Bedford Hall, 96 W. South; Women's Dormitory, 76 W. South; New Dining Commons and Men's dorm., Wright St.; Men's Dormitory,, 63 W. Ross; Gore Hall, 275 S. Franklin; Gymnasium,, 274 S. Franklin; Miner Hall, 264 S. Franklin; Doane Hall, 237-239 S. Franklin; Dana Hall, 235 S. Franklin; Eugene S. Farley Library, S. Franklin and W. South; Hollenback Hall, 192 S. Franklin; Pickering Hall, 181 S. Franklin.

John Franklin Hall, 165 S. Franklin; Weckesser Hall, 170 S. Franklin; Weckesser Annex, 170 S. Franklin; Harding Hall, 141 S. Franklin; Sturdevant Hall, 115 S. Franklin; Chesapeake Hall, 68-70 W. Northampton; Delaware Hall, 72-74 W. Northampton; Shawnee Hall, 76 W. Northampton; Susquehannock Hall, 78 W. Northampton; 150 S. River St.; Barre Hall, 80 W. River; R. 98 S. River; Kocian, 137 S. Franklin; 113 W. River; 117 W. River; 280 S. Franklin.

Permits also issued for repairs to the following structures Jewish Community Center, 60 S. River St., $500,000; St. Aloysius Church School, 321 Barney St., $500,000; Sea Isle Sportswear, Inc., 170 Simpson St., $500,000; Pomeroy's, Inc., 2 Public Square, $100,000; Engel Enterprises, Market and N. River Streets, $100,000; Abe N. Solomon, Inc., 701 S. Main St., $40,000.

Inasmuch as all of the work was done in the flood area, no permit fees were collected by the city.

It was estimated the city would have collected about $20,000 fees for the permits if council had not lifted fee collection.

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Crossing Delays

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has not been, however, nor has there been any explanation.

On Monday, a Lehigh Valley Railroad freight train with more than 100 cars tied up the grade crossings for 25 minutes, and caused a traffic jam for more than 30 minutes thereafter as motorists crawled through central city's noonday traffic.

On Wednesday, a morning freight of similar length knotted inbound traffic so thoroughly that cars were stretched for blocks on each side of the Northampton and Market Street grade crossings. As in the previous instance, the jam in the wake of the train's passage was a mammoth one, the delay for some motorists exceeding a half hour.

Some solution must be found. Such lack of cooperation on the part of the railroads and inattention on the part of the police is unfair to the motorists, unfair to central city firms and business places, and an insufferable burden on the community as a whole.

If such blockades are inevitable — and we don't believe they are — could not the cooperation of the rail lines and the police bring diversion of traffic over the bridges which span the tracks? And could it be done IN ADVANCE, with adequate police traffic personnel to insure a steady vehicular flow? This or some other method, and/or enforcement of the appropriate city ordinances, are urgently needed and without further delay, lest the motorists rise in active revolt.

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Service Women

Things are looking up for women in the armed forces. Recently it was announced that the Women's Army Corps would be almost doubled and given much wider job opportunity. The very next day Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. issued a message to all ships and stations opening the door to eventual assignment of women to duty aboard warships.

Both developments seem to be occasioned by the potential needs for personnel in services made up entirely of volunteers. The WAC's numerical strength is projected at 24,000 by June 1978, as compared with the present 13,200. Zumwalt said that the present force of 6,000 WAVEs might have to be doubled or even tripled "to help us achieve the size Navy we need under an all-volunteer force."

Problems will be created by expanding the role of women in the Army and Navy; there is no doubt of it. But we think, as Admiral Zumwalt does, that

'QUICK, HENRY—FLIT!'

William F. Buckley, Jr.

The Rabbi's Forlorn Button

In New York City, Rabbi Nathan Schorr, chairman of the American Jewish Association, who has a sharp eye for piquancy, thought recently to distribute a button. A political, campaign button — no question about that. He took the idea to friends who sympathized with his purposes, and undertook to get the button produced, and to advertise its availability.

In due course the advertisement arrived at what they are pleased to call the Acceptability Department of the New York Times. After a little confusion, it was turned down. Why? the ad agency asked. For legal reasons, said the Times representative. What legal reasons? Well, he said, under the Federal Campaign Election Act of 1971, it is required that an advertisement which has the purpose of influencing the election of persons to federal office, be submitted with the authorization of the candidate whose name is used in the advertisement and to whose purposes the ad is presumably put. If a candidate's name is used without authority, the law seems to say, it is then required

George McGovern, it falls therefore under the law.

The button in question reads:

MCGOVERN IS BEHIND
ISRAEL
1000%

"You are joking," I said. The executive, so deeply immersed in the law that it had evidently slipped his attention that Senator McGovern had pledged to support Senator Eagleton "1000%," smiled over the telephone, and promised to call back after he had consulted his colleagues.

"I am making a historical decision," he reported an hour later. "We are henceforward interpreting the law as excluding the advertisement of political buttons, or the use of puns." Accordingly, the rabbi's McGovern button will fly its flag in the Times,

and is available (at $1) from The Committee to Button Down Support for Israel, P.O. Box 574, Murray Hill Station, New York, New York 10016.

The New York Times is deeply involved in the complexities of the crazy new law. Two weeks ago, it was revealed that the Justice Department had filed suit against the National Committee for Impeachment, which had inserted a two-page Impeach Nixon ad in the Times in May. The Justice Department, having received complaints against the ad, has moved against the committee charging it with failure to state where a copy of its financial reports could be obtained and with failure to indicate that the ad had not been authorized by the congressmen whose names were listed in it as themselves favoring the impeachment of Nixon.

The story revealed further that the Justice Department was thinking of suing the New York Times, over its failure to get from the impeachment committee the information necessary to comply with the new law. Mr. James Goodale, senior vice president of The Times "for law and finance," announced that

Memory Lane

From Times-Leader News Files Of August 31, 1947

Landlords whose housing accommodations are freed from rent control by the Housing and Rent Act of 1947 are no longer required to file reports of decontrol with the rent office, Ralph Haarmeyer, area rent director,

Jack Anderson

AG Saves

Washington — To spare Alabama's Gov. George Wallace from the embarrassment of having his name dragged through a long trial, Attorney General Richard Kleindienst personally intervened last week to stop the prosecution of the ex-commandant of the Alabama Air National Guard.

Major General Reid Doster, the former guard commander, had been charged by a federal grand jury with squeezing illegal political donations out of guard officers. The indictment said he had turned over $1,700 of the illegally raised money to the 1970 gubernatorial campaign of George Wallace, whom Doster has called his "personal friend."

By the time the case was scheduled to be tried last week, federal prosecutor Ira Dement had lined up 40 witesses to testify. The trial was expected to last weeks.

But on the day the trial was to begin, Dement suddenly dropped the charges. Doster agreed, in return, to resign his commission. Three other defendants, subordinates of Doster, were let off scot free.

We have now learned that the decision to call off the trial was made personally by Kleindienst. When my reporter Mark McIntyre demanded to know why the charges were dropped, a Justice Department spokesman blurted: "Because Governor Wallace was involved."

It wasn't the first time that the Nixon administration suppressed a criminal action embarrassing to Wallace.

Political Payoffs

Our stories four years ago about Wallace's political payoff system led to an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service. In a confidential summary of the case made available to us, the IRS charged that the Wallace law firm, then operated by George and his brother Gerald, had been used as a conduit for kickbacks from state contractors.

The IRS also concluded that Gerald Wallace had failed to report the full income that came to him through the firm in 1967 and 1968. His taxable income for the two years was given as $175,924.

Yet the federal tax case against Gerald Wallace was suddenly abandoned after a private conference between President Nixon and Governor Wallace last year aboard the presidential plane. Not long afterward, George Wallace announced his candidacy for President as a Democrat.

White House aides, discussing the political outlook with us later, said they had assurances Wallace would not run as an independent no matter what the outcome of the Democratic convention. They regarded this as a significant advantage for the President, particularly in case of a close-fought election.