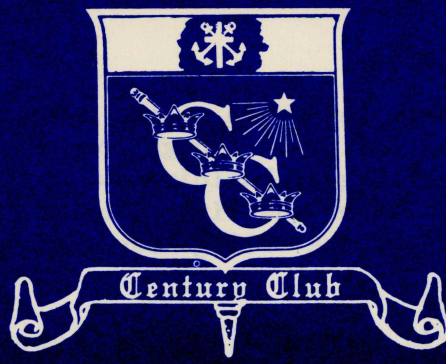


MEMO: King's College Century Club, 1972 August
"A River and its People" MEMO

King's College

133 NORTH RIVER STREET

WILKES-BARRE, PENNA. 18702



August, 1972

Flood Gov.

\$\$\$ CENTURY NOTES \$\$\$

A River and Its People

It was to be classified the worst natural catastrophe in the history of this country.

A river had crested at over 40 feet...had broken all past records. It had transformed friendly dikes into hostile dams, breaking and sending rushing waters pushing and twisting homes from their foundations. National news media from ocean to ocean carried the sensational story of Wyoming Valley and its raging Susquehanna River.

But the sensationalism was short lived. The real story was to lie not with the river...but with the people.

It has been two months since the waters of our turbulent Susquehanna receded. The seventy thousand people who had scrambled up both sides of the Valley that Friday morning were walking back...stunned to find what awaited them...homes wrecked, the mud and slime; their household treasures, gone or ruined.

The people walked back carrying buckets and mops, brushes and squeegees. Loaded down, they skidded their way home. Looking at "home" and choking. Then laughing at the whiskey bottle perched atop the dining room curtain rod, the unbroken egg on the wrecked kitchen floor. Laughing for fear of crying. They would not cry. The homes will shine again, those destroyed will rise again. Times that try men's souls? But this is the Valley with a heart...and the heart is the harbor of the soul.

Sprinkled among the stories of pathos were those stories testifying to that heart. Stories of the mass effort at the dikes; the sleepless, uninterrupted hours, days, of the rescue squads, the immediate help from the neighboring, untouched Valley communities. Evacuees were taken into the homes of friends... and into the friendly homes of strangers. And during cleanup, the country's flag was displayed on thousands of devastated homes, a plea of hope, a sign of faith. But testifying to that heart, too, was the warm feeling, so difficult to describe, that comes with knowing you are not alone. Togetherness was the greatest strength. Mutual compassion, the consolation.

The Valley with a heart will live.

King's College Damaged Extensively

The College did not escape the wrath of the Susquehanna. The damages were estimated at four million dollars. Though located on a relatively high spot in the city, all of the college's buildings with the exception of the Administration Building had water on the first floor level. The damage was severe, however, since so many of the college facilities are located below ground level.

The excavated compound in the center of the campus was hit hard. This area is flanked by the Student Center and the Library. The first floors of both these were under water and all carpeting and much of the furniture had to be discarded. The lower levels of these buildings were completely ruined, the ceilings, walls and floors bared. The College Gymnasium was also under water and all of the wooden flooring had to be ripped out. The rifle range and the locker areas were almost completely destroyed. The workmen were shocked to discover that all of the lockers in the basement of the Gym had been twisted and pulled from their moorings. A cinder block partition collapsed.

The Cafeteria and Lounge areas in the Administration Building also received heavy damage. All the carpeting and paneling in these areas had to be replaced. But the greatest loss was in the Library where an estimated 30,000 volumes were destroyed. The loss included the entire fiction section of the Library, all books in the Social Sciences, 1/3 of the Library collection, 1/3 of the History, travel and Biography section and 1,000 new books waiting cataloging. In addition in the Library were losses of Audio-Visual Equipment, film, filmstrips, tapes, phonorecords, etc. The total loss in the Library alone is \$1,393,000.00.

THE COLLEGE'S NEED GOES ON...

AND THE CENTURY CLUB WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE COLLEGE BY CARRYING ON ITS PROGRAM.

May They Rest In Peace

Since our last letter to you, three outstanding members of our Century Club have passed away.

Mrs. Esther McLaughlin, a long time active member, died unexpectedly at the height of the flood disaster. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her family, and to her son Tom who is a member of the Century Club's Executive Committee.

Stanley Malinowski, a member of the Executive Committee and long time close friend of the college, died on July 1st. Stanley was a member of the college's President's Club and recently he and his wife contributed the carillons to the college in memory of Stanley's brother John. Our sincere sympathies are extended to Mrs. Malinowski.

Mrs. Margaret Gorman, also a member of the Executive Committee of the Century Club, died recently. Mrs. Gorman was the widow of Edward Gorman a former member of the Century Club Executive Committee who passed away in 1964. Margaret, as she was affectionately known to most of us, maintained a deep and abiding interest in the affairs of King's College and its success. Our condolences are extended to Margaret's family.

NOTE
100-885-5555
HOLLYWOOD NIGHT CLUB
100-885-5555
100-885-5555