

.....See George Faint and James Harris, Sr.

James Harris, Sr., was on that original board with me and, as I say, he'll know a lot that I don't know; he has a better memory than I have (I think I'm three or four years older than he is). He graduated from Bucknell in 1912, the same year that a brother of mine graduated. I graduated from Bucknell in 1916 and came up here; I wasat that time president of the alumni association, in 1933 and 1934, and during my alumni program of 1934 I introduced Dr. Marts as the new president of Bucknell. He and I have since then been very close to each other (I had done some things that he asked me to do during the time that he was president) and I came up here and was made one of the first directors of Bucknell Junior College at that time. And I'm trying to think who the man was that came up here along with Davis to institute the Bucknell Junior College and to go around and see these different men - as I say, Long and Sordoni and different ones of that sort - to see whether or not it would be feasible. I can't remember who it was.

After getting off the board of trustees at Bucknell,

Dr. Marts came up here and was appointed to the board of trustees of the

then Bucknell Junior College and became very friendly with Andrew Sordoni and Julius Long Stern and an old man who had given considerable money to Bucknell to redo the old man, which had been burned [Daniel C. Roberts, presumably] and he got mixed up with those three or four people and decided that maybe he could get some money from them, which he did, and that's when this Bucknell Junior College flourished and finally went into Wilkes College and now is in tip-top shape, we think.

DID DEVELOPMENTS AT THE JUNIOR COLLEGE PARALLEL
TRENDS AT THE UNIVERSITY?

Yes, they did.

WHAT ABOUT THE COLLEGE DURING THE SECOND
WORLD WAR?

During the war years, I can only say that with the guidance of the president of the board of directors and its environment of Gilbert McClintock, we managed to keep going and stay in the blue, without getting in the red at any time, as I remember. It was difficult. It was difficult to get men: Some of our best doctors left to go into the Service as men in the different branches; but we kept going and kept going in the black and eventually

everything was all right. I can't tell you definitely how we did it or what, but I know it was done.

The Army Air Corps brought in some men here (I believe that was through the efforts of Dr. Marts, too, but I'm not sure; Dr. Marts was made a captain in the Coast Guard) and through Dr. Marts and Gilbert McClintock, who was president of the board of trustees at that time. Admiral Stark was on the board of trustees at that time (and, of course, he was busy with his Navy, but there was something that he did; what it was I don't know - that was behind the scenes) anyway, I know that I got a call from Dr. Farley (or he came over here - I don't know which it was) and he said, "Are you awfully busy?" I said, "No." "Do you want to take another job?" I said, "Why, sure, if it's for the school, I'd be glad to do anything (and I've had that in my craw ever since I was down at Bucknell with the alumni business. I go back there now as often as I can - just to see who's there. It's a good school, and I think we have a good school over here).

Now, as far as talking to Dr. Farley, he said, "We have a bunch of Air Corps men coming in to study at the junior college, with board and room at the Hotel Sterling (you see, they weren't doing very much) and

to get their flying at the Forty Fort Airport," (which it was called at that time). And he said, "We need a doctor to take care of them. Would you be willing to take that charge?" I said, "Anything I can do, I'd be glad to do." He said, "All right. You be the doctor. And if I were you, I'd get hold of some books and find out what your duties are. We'll have to have some kind of a pest house for you to put in students who get sick. We ought to have a place to put in people who get contagious diseases; I'm going to let you think about this for a day or two and then come over and see me and tell me what you've got on your mind and we'll go ahead and take care of it." And that's about all there was to it.

I suggested the contagious hospital down in South Wilkes-Barre, which was not being used at that time. We staffed that with two or three nurses and I went down there every day. The kids were from eighteen to twenty-five, and they got measles and chicken pox and that sort of thing. We had a house on one of the streets over there which we used as a hospital; sometimes we had as many as twenty-five or thirty in there with gripes and colds and sore throats and runny noses and such. And we had two, and sometimes three, nurses there to take care of them. I made my calls

there regularly; first thing in the morning and the last thing at night I had to go over there and make my routine calls, and that lasted up until it was all over. Every week, every Saturday, we would send fifty men out and get fifty men in until it was all over. And, I had to lecture to the students at least twice a week on venereal disease, show the moving pictures and talk to them and that sort of thing. I had to examine their food, examine their plates, knives and forks, and things like that. Occasionally, an Air Corps lieutenant, or captain, or whatnot would come in and go over the setup with me and see that I was doing my job. I had to go around town and close up certain holes, so to speak, that were doing things they shouldn't do, educating our corporals in a way that wasn't in the right train of voice.

But it all ended up, and I have a letter here someplace from my headquarters in Georgia in which they said that I was one of the few, I believe, who had taken care of some eight thousand boys during the period without one reportable venereal disease. Now, of course, that meant handing out rubbers and giving them talks and showing them pictures of what might happen if they got syphilis and gonorrhea and that sort of thing. . . so that I got commendations from two or three there. And, on Sunday afternoons,

I had to be over there from two o'clock until five to talk to the mothers and fathers and have the mothers tell me to be sure that their sons put their rubbers on and to be sure they wore their overcoats and that sort of thing. It was an interesting thing. I can't tell you much about what went on at Wilkes because I was busy at that time. At nights, see, the boys would get fighting and knock themselves against the iron bedsteads and get a cut on their heads or a cut on their arms or faces, and I'd have to go and sew them up. As I say, I went to their board meetings - but that's about all.

I'll be seventy-six years old in a couple of weeks, so I don't have the brains that I had at one time, or at least I thought I had. I was on the radio when these boys first came out and asked the people to take them as their sons and not take them as they are apt to find anybody that comes in from the Army, or the Navy, of the Marines, or whatnot. These are boys who have a mother or father; these are boys who have sisters. And I'd like to have the girls of your homes take these boys in and not treat them as a prostitute but treat them as a sister or a brother of your own boy who's probably in the Service. I remember that broadcast; that was the

one that went on all three radio stations at that time, and I talked for about a half hour. It went over; it got them ready. And this was my talk to the Air Corps boys: You're here, you're going to meet some of our girls. We like our girls; we want you to treat them the same as you would want us to treat your sisters. . . . and that sort of thing - it seemed to go into them. So, when I got my letter from the headquarters down in Georgia, it was nice.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME OF GILBERT McCLINTOCK?

Gilbert McClintock was a good chairman of the board in this way: He was an educated man; he was a lawyer - and what you might speak of as a lawyer of industry, he was looked up to by everybody in the town. You spoke about Rotary; we have a Kiwanis Club here, of which I am a member now for twenty-five years, and he was one of the first presidents of this Kiwanis Club, which is almost in its seventy-fifth year now. He was very sharp; there was no dillydallying in the board of directors' meetings. He was efficient and when he said something, or we'll do this or we'll do that, always afterward he would say, "Now, if you don't think that's all right, give me an argument," which, I think, showed that he wasn't pushing a button and wanting everybody to jump as soon as he pushed the button.

WHAT OF ADMIRAL STARK?

Admiral Stark was very efficient as president of the board.

We respected him for his title. We respected him because he had given us his homestead to the college years ago when we first came to Wilkes-Barre. There was no dillydallying with him; he had a meeting of the officers prior to the regular meeting, usually, so that it was usually cut and dried so that we, as businessmen or professional men, were not detained too long. We had plenty of time to say anything that we wanted to say or make any changes that we wanted to change in Admiral Stark's routine.....a very efficient man.

At the time that the Sputnik was put up by Russia, the board of trustees merely took it as a condition. The people on the outside who tried to cause some sort of disturbance, we didn't pay any attention to them anymore than if it was something that concerned us. Our job was to continue with the college and to keep what men we could and to get new men and new buildings or new parts for the present building as it was necessary. I can't recall anything else being of a deteriorious nature at that time.

AS A MEMBER OF SOME THIRTY YEARS' STANDING,
HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BUCKNELL
JUNIOR COLLEGE AND, LATER, WILKES COLLEGE?

From my first installation in the board of trustees at what was then Bucknell Junior College, until the present time, I do not believe that there has been one dissension among the board of trustees at any time. In my humble opinion, the board of trustees has always been a high-class group of business, professional and men of the community. There's been no jealousy among the men and women who were on the board that I can recall. There's been no petty jealousy at any time. Everything has been under control beautifully by the presidents of the board, which we have had; and in my time there have been probably eight or ten high-type individuals who have taken a special interest in what's now Wilkes College.

WE'VE MENTIONED SOME OF THE OTHER CHAIRMEN
OF THE BOARD, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME OF CHARLES WALLER?

Charles Waller is another lawyer, something like Gilbert McClintock, who has his special meeting before the regular meeting. He delves into what's going on and knows pretty well what Wilkes College needs

and what the board of trustees can do; and I think he's going to make - and has made for the short time he's been on the board - I think he's doing a very good job.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER TRUSTEES WHO PARTICULARLY
STAND OUT IN YOUR MEMORY?

Well, Mrs. Darte.....Mrs. Darte has been a very able individual for a woman to be on a board and know what she's doing. And, if something comes up that she doesn't understand, she doesn't hesitate to stop and find out what's going on. She and others on the board have thoroughly gone into things - Annette Evans, Miss Annette Evans - these people have thoroughly gone into things and you don't pull anything over their eyes, so to speak. Charles Miner, a lawyer, has been secretary for a good many years, and he's good. Shaffer, Attorney Shaffer, is right up there with everything that comes along. Rube Levy, an industrialist; they've all been good - when it's time for an audit, when we're after some money, why, they come through with their little share, too. They have done very well. Si Morgan, from Lewisburg, a former Marts & Lundy man from New York, comes from Lewisburg to almost every meeting. We have men coming in from the north of here and they

come in for the meetings and they enjoy them because they feel they are a part of Wilkes College which has a good name throughout the community.

AS A MAN WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH ALUMNI GROUPS,
HOW DO YOU VIEW THE GROWING NUMBERS OF ALUMNI AT WILKES?

When I was with the Alumni at Bucknell, we had power in this way: There were several things that came up that we took care of through the alumni office and some substantial alumni people, and Sam (Samuel Davenport, Jr.) has that in mind now. Now, I don't know exactly how much, but he collected - I believe - something like eight- to ten thousand dollars through the alumni on this last drive. So, that is a matter of forcefulness. These alumni books, there's 6,600 of them going out and with a background of six thousand he can do something with that, and he will.

END OF INTERVIEW