

Dean - Wheaton

→ It is Wed., Jan. 13, 1993 ... I am Betsy Bell Condon
D. of C.R.
and meeting
with

Introduction: Dr. Robert E. Ogren

in Weckesser Hall, Wilkes University

Dr. Ogren ^{has been} a Professor Emeritus member of the University
faculty since May of 1986 - still taught? doing now?

September 1963 - came here ^{almost 30 years ago} as a Biology teacher

Tell his background? - where from? - career - Family -

Campus then?

✓ Faculty then? Particular times remembered changes thru 3 decades?

✓ Biology Dept. then?

✓ Students then? Parties ones remembered

✓ Community involvement - Kingston -

✓ Pres of AAUP chapter here

✓ Faculty mtgs + Documentation

✓ Development of role of Deanship - Progression

Dr. Mike - Dean

Faculty Wives - Betty Moses ^{current} ~~Interest~~ Gourmet/Reading clubs
+ Interest Groups - Dinners
added (Suzie Thatcher) → Betty Mailey

Started '63-'65

✓ Faculty: needs to share responsibility

✓ All faculty committees apptd by Dr. Farley

(Interim Senate)

✓ Dr. O. - part of change over - Policy Comm.

✓ Faculty Senate - (Trustees?!) - evolved into something else -

"Wheaton Remembered" - get impressions

- Flood: Pre + Post were - Transition Time

Came from upper upper NY state -
to Wheaton -
Interrupted by war. -

Ursinus } teaching pre-Wishes
Dickinson }

Int. in Science - U. of Ill. Zoology + Physiology

Phys. Facilities here were excellent -

Students interested in learning

Faculty an informal group - opp's for research -

Church Reif -

Children born to faculty -

Student Research Groups

✓ Hahnemann program - - - - -

Should do this

History / Evolution of Fac. Government within college -
- → within faculty structure -
- -

• still teaching or doing now?

• Kingston - Community involvement - community's image of U.
• Jean -

ORAL HISTORY

DR. EDWARD G. HARTMANN

May 3, 1993

BBC: Hi! This is Betsy Condron, Director of Community Relations at Wilkes, and today we're doing an oral history with Dr. Edward G. Hartmann, class of '35 of Bucknell University Junior College. It's May 3, 1993. Dr. Hartmann is an author, an educator, eminent scholar, descendent of old Welsh early family here, which I hope he'll tell us a little about, German and Welsh. He's very good about these things; he knows just from whence he came. I think I'm going to let him take over and tell you about his childhood here in Wilkes-Barre Area, Ed, yes, you were, right? And then on here to Bucknell. And here he is, Dr. Hartmann.

EGH: How do you do? Its nice to do this again because I've always been a booster of Wilkes-Barre. The Bucknell University established a Junior College back in 1933, and we had no school here or anything else. I graduated from GAR in the class of 1930, so I was out of school for three years, and I worked for the McCrory Corporation. I was stock clerk and then assistant manager, and I got my belly full of business. I'd have no more of that, not because I had anything else to do. So, when I heard the Junior College was going to open up here, I said phooey on that and out I get and I haven't been in business since. And that shouldn't discourage any business students who might be listening to this because it was not my cup of tea at all, at any rate.

BBC: Let's put it off and make sure that you're being heard, because that is the thing that always worries me. Just to make sure.

EGH: Alright. We've been interrupted temporarily. At any rate, as I was saying when I heard that the school was going to open I decided I would come here and try to get an education. I had thought of going to college somewhere else, but it was so convenient, I thought that I would try it out. We are all very appreciative of Bucknell for having established a college here. So I was one of the first. I think there were around 163 students if I recall correctly that came over here and met in the old Business College Building on Northampton Street. It was apparently about a ten-year-old building which Victor Lee Dodson and Thomas H. Keiser had established it, and we were on the third floor, and they kept the second floor for the business school. The following year they got out completely and we took over the complete building and they went up to Wilkes-Barre Deposit and Savings Bank on the Square and continued on in their own way. I don't know whether we bought the building or not, but at any rate for my two years and for some years thereafter we were in that particular building. And it was very interesting from the standpoint of a non-campus school right from the very beginning, if you will. And right across the street the YMCA was being built at the time, so frequently we had some trouble with our lectures and what not. Now many of the professors came up weekly on various days to give us lectures and the like, but there was a permanent staff. If I recall

correctly, I was more interested in an AB degree and I took the traditional course. I should say at that very time, perhaps the year before, that Bucknell had adopted the Chicago plan, which consisted of a series of survey courses for the first two years, covering all branches of science and mathematics and what not and especially this in the second years and we continued in the Junior College thereafter and even Wilkes, I think, because when I taught later, as I shall tell you, we still had that same sort of thing. So that a Survey of World Literature was required of everybody, a History of Art, a History of Religion, a basic course in Psychology and Philosophy and what not. It was a wonderful program and I can't praise it too much it was certainly something that gave you a well-balanced idea. And, of course, at the same time engineering courses were offered for the boys who wanted to specialize and Biology and what not. Now the permanent staff, if I recall correctly, my friend Joe Salsburg can probably fill this in but consisted of--these people were here part of Bucknell's faculty but remained here, whereas Bucknell sent people up. There was Magel Brooks in French, and Victor McCrossen who later taught here at Wilkes College as a professor of German, a man by the name of Hollenshead, not the same as the famous Hollenshead Chronicles but, he was here as well. When you should mention their names, he was Bryon Hollenshead and later became the principal or the President of Keystone College and ended up as the President of Coe College. The other was Forest Keller, and Forest Keller taught the History Survey and he ended up in Washington somewhere and what have you. Magel Brooks was a professor of French, well-trained indeed, so well-trained that (I never had French in high school, I had taken German), but I had no trouble after two years of French with her, landing later in Normandy and being able to speak it, which is far more than a lot of people could. I mean you could drop me there tomorrow night and I could do alright. Magel Brooks, Victor McCrossen was a professor of German. Both of these people went later down to the campus. And Victor McCrossen I'll swear. And if I have forgotten anyone, oh, there was Paul Gies. He was in charge of the music. He liked it so much that he switched from Bucknell and stayed here. And later, of course, died here I guess.

BBC: Known as Pop Gies.

EGH: Pop Gies. And there was Voris B. Hall; he was in charge of physics and he stayed later on. And a man by the name of Schuyler who taught chemistry; he went back to the campus. And that was in the first year you see. And in the second year, Professor Daniel Gage came along and he was very popular here and was a professor of history. And a man by the name of Godchilds came and he was a professor of psychology and he was very popular. He eventually went back to the campus. And then we had a man by the name of Wilford Crook that taught sociology and criminology. And we had more fun with him; he was from England. And he had his Ph.D. from Oxford and had written a book on the great strike of 1924, I guess, in Britain and so on. By and large, I would say that they were all fine teachers and, of course, in those survey courses the men were just in charge here but they had sent up special lecturers from the campus so we got the best of their training. Dr. Oliphant came up and various ones and went back again. And by and large I thought that was fine. Now the library, the library. Bucknell bought a series of the Every Man Editions, as I remember them, and you had five copies of all of the textbooks and a few things like that. And that library was in . . . , by the way George Faint was the Registrar and it was in his office and we used to borrow that, which meant then that our mother institution, not Bucknell but the Osterhout Library was very significant for us in our first two years. And I think we all, and Wilkes certainly, should be indebted to the Osterhout Library. To me, if Bucknell is the mother than the Osterhout is the grandmother of the College not

only for us but also for King's later located in the same building, Osterhout also came through. So Osterhout sent a part-time person over to sort of keep us in line that first year. And the second year they left one of their staff over and, of course, it was a romance. By that time a new professor of English had come along and, lo and behold, he marries her and off they go somewhere else. But at any rate a very nice person. I could still see her now in that big classroom there shushing us up, you know, as we were talking and so on, trying to keep order. It was a study hall.

BBC: Do you remember her name?

EGH: No I don't remember her name, I asked Joan Costello over at the Osterhout but they didn't keep the personnel. But she married the professor of English, whatever his name was back in that period. I didn't have him but he came after we left. So that's about the subject matter if you will. It got so noisy towards the end because you see, everything was so cramped. We took over the second floor, and the second floor then had all these laboratories and what not. Professor Hall, Professor Schuyler, what not, and they got the same training as we did down at Bucknell. Then Bucknell, of course, would send up people and so on. In other words, having two years here, and I might say for the next four years or whenever for as long as they continued to send people down, there was never any doubts about the education. In fact, we ran circles (I don't want to brag) but our first class and the second class, too, remarkable with all the talent it was. And down there they were amazed because we took all the records when we'd go down there, mostly honors and things of that sort. I'll stop temporarily.

BBC: You can go on talking (while she is on telephone).

EGH: Oh. Alright, she said I can go on talking; the telephone has ended. Where was I? Oh yes, well we did very well and I'm very happy to tell you that we had some very outstanding students, not to blow my horn, but I believe that I am the first Ph.D. in History. After going to Bucknell I got my AB and Master's down there I had this fellowship, by the way, all along and then I went on to Columbia and got my Ph.D. in History. So I believe I am the first Ph.D. in the school but we have some others too. Later, Ambrose Saricks who was an outstanding student got his Ph.D., also AB and MA at Bucknell, and then went on to Wisconsin and got his Ph.D. in American History over there, and he went out to Ohio State and ended up in Kansas (Univ. of Kansas?) where not only was he Professor of History at Gaines University but he also served as the Vice Chancellor for some years, didn't like it and then went back to History. He is now Professor of History Emeritus out there. The third person I know is Joseph P. Lord, who after the war was over he went on and I don't know whether, he got his Ph.D. of course from Harvard. He might have had his Master's from Bucknell, too. But he never taught in that sense. He went on in psychology, in child psychology. He is a specialist in a children's hospital, things of that sort. He never had a full-time teaching spot; he may have filled in apparently and so on. He's retired now and he's back here in Wilkes-Barre. He was the third. The fourth member of that first class that I remember getting a Ph.D. only stayed one year then went down to Bucknell. He was from Scranton, (the rest of these boys, by the way, were from Wilkes-Barre). He went from Scranton. His name is Robert Carter and I think he got his Ph.D. in psychology from NYU and later became the President of Slippery Rock College, I don't know what has happened to him in the meantime.

BBC: I just want to interrupt you. That is the University of Kansas?

EGH: Yes the University of Kansas.

BBC: Okay, Ambrose Saricks.

EGH: Well he taught at another school too in between but he went back to it. Now he is Emeritus, I'm Emeritus too but he is Emeritus. I didn't tell you where I went. After Columbia, while I was there working on a Ph.D. and so on, the war broke out and my dissertation wasn't quite finished, so I went into the Army. I served then as the Historian of the 90th Infantry Division, World War II in Europe from D-Day to Czechoslovakia and that was another education in its own way in itself. I remained in the reserves and I retired as a Major and I'm now a retired Major but this was in the reserves. Alright, when I was over there it was very interesting, I was about to go into the service when I got this telegram from Gene Farley inviting me to become professor of History. There had been a vacancy. I think a man by the name of, I've forgotten, Oh! I guess Danny Gage had left. Anyway the position was open and could I take it? I said not until Uncle Sam takes care of everything. And he said the position will be waiting for you when you come back. And it was. And when I came back in '46, they put me to work right away. We had lost the man who had preceded me, his name was Nicholson. He didn't get along very well here, I guess, and he left and he went out somewhere West. But he had a job. So there was the vacancy waiting for me. So I became Professor of History here in '46 and stayed until '47, more about that later. Anyway, that was my background and then after teaching a year here or so, I went on to get a Library degree at Columbia and then went up to Suffolk where, of course, I was Director of Libraries and Professor of History for thirty years, from 1948 to 1978 when I retired as Emeritus Professor. And, of course, being in Boston was really something, I enjoyed that very much. Now what else do you want to know?

BBC: Dr. Hartmann maybe if you just put that there for a minute I think it will hear us both. I think the mike will pick us both up. I wonder if you have any particular recollections about the actual founding of BUJC from the community and your own family or friends.

EGH: Well, as I understand it, of course maybe it's all in Gene Farley's book. But if I remember correctly, Bucknell--they were all sinking in the Depression and they were seeking students. And Bucknell sought around and realized that this is one place that didn't have a college at all. There was the Catholic college up in Scranton, but nothing at all, and it seemed like a natural. So they got in touch with a man by the name of Victor E. Lewis. Now he wasn't a Bucknellian; he was Penn State and he was Superintendent of Schools on the West Side. And he was very active and his son became the first enrollee, his name was Thorwald E. Lewis from Edwardsville. And Thorwald Lewis later became a teacher and taught over in Dallas Township and Edwardsville itself, and then he became the principal or supervising principal down in the New Columbus area, down there in that area, or Huntington Mills, I guess that was it, in that particular area. Of course he died very maturely. But anyway he was the first student. He also (blank on the tape) the football team with all the old garments from Bucknell and Bryon Hollenshead who later became the (President) of Keystone College. He was with the Brown Team and he was an athlete, and somebody said he was All American and I found out later he wasn't. Anyway he was the coach. And Thorwald Lewis was the captain of the team and he made the only touchdown that I know of in the game against St. Nicholas

High School. And here you have these big klutzes of 18 or 19 and these little kids; you know it was really a farce. But at any rate they had two or three games that first year and then they cut it out completely. Now the second year they had a basketball team which is alright and we used to play games across the way and by that time the YMCA was finished and we had swimming classes and lots of things over there--activities. A man by the name of Hank Peters became the first all-time coach. But I think since they didn't have football, we'll have to check the coach's name.

BBC: Now, you could ask John Reese.

EGH: No, no the one that just got honored.

BBC: At the Hall of Fame?

EGH: No the Assistant Dean, the Dean, Ralston. I'm sure that when Ralston came, Hank Peters was coach of basketball here for two years at least and then he came down to Bucknell and, of course, he stayed at Bucknell and remained the coach down there. Now I don't know but I suspect we didn't have much of an athletic program since the time when Peters left and the time when Ralston came. I'm not sure when Ralston came but he, of course, really established (what would I call it?) a serious professional. But Hank Peters and I used to, Gene Farley never liked to remember these things, because you see as far as Gene Farley was concerned the school didn't exist until he took over, which would be two years later I think in '35 let's see he would be 36 or 37. It didn't exist, I mean everything is after his time. I liked Gene; he was fun and he really made the school. There is no question about that. I'll never forget when I very proudly told him, Well I'm your first Ph.D. And he says you're not, you're Bucknell's, we don't have one yet. Well that's nice I said, I'll remember that when it comes to gifts to the school. Well Gene, of course, was wonderful but he also made mistakes. More about that later. At any rate, some of the little incidents, the personnel involved. I'd like to pay tribute to Eleanor Scureman Fox. Mrs. Fox, Eleanor Scureman. We had a newspaper and it was called The Bison Stampede. Of course the Bisons was the team down there at Bucknell. We called it The Bison Stampede. She made it up. And it was a newspaper and it came out every week. I was the circulation manager. And Eleanor was more than that. She was the, oh we had, I think she arranged so that we could have a victrola down in the auditorium and we used to dance down there at lunch time and what not and the kids would get together and so on. She really stirred up a lot of activities.

BBC: Now that was the auditorium in the old Business College.

EGH: The auditorium downstairs. Yes. And there was a little stage there where we used to have plays and so on. And I remember Eleanor, she was very good. Among some of the other outstanding students. Well, Ambrose Saricks was very bright; Joe Salsburg (he was only 15 I think) and we all made a pet out of him, he was so young. I was probably the oldest. I was 21, being out for three years and so on. And then we had a man by the name of Justin O'Donnell, and he was a real character. His father was a lawyer and what not. And he was just full of the devil. And we'd come out the door and there was a policeman at the corner of Northampton Street and Main Street, and he'd holler flatfoot. And the policeman got mad and he'd come in and complain to the Director. I must remember the Director. The Director was Dr. John Eisenhower, not Gene Farley. John Eisenhower was the first "HAUER,"

the German-style fashion, not the Dutch. John Eisenhower got his doctorate in education, and he had been the principal at Reading High School and temporarily on Bucknell's staff. He went back to Reading High School, by the way, and Gene Farley took his place. But anyway he was in charge. And he had to soothe down this policeman. Now this Justin was a real character. He never studied. He was so bright. He'd borrow everybody else's textbooks and he never had any problems whatsoever. He went on and got his legal degree from Dickinson, and never practiced, but went right into the service and the CIA. And he was in the CIA and had a marvelous career. He retired from there. He told me once that he had landed successfully in Russia. They got him in and he got out and wasn't caught, not like the guy that was caught with his plane and so on. So I never could get the details because he said it was hush hush and so on. He told me that. The poor fellow died of cancer about ten years ago but he lived down in Washington and I visited him when I was in Europe when he was over with the staff at the Hague. But Justin was quite a character. Who else? Oh, we had some other very bright people--Albie Rolfs, he became an engineering student. And we had one of the first female engineers I believe. She may still be alive. Her name was Jean Armstrong. In the Alumni book? And she was taking all these male courses, the only girl in the engineering courses and all of that sort of stuff and went on and got her degree, and was very active and became an engineer and married, of course. But is a professional engineer down in Delaware, somewhere in Delaware. Is she there, Jean Armstrong something or other?

BBC: There is something here, there is a Sally and a Patricia and a Nancy. Oh, here's Jean. Jean Bogart.

EGH: Jean Bogart that's right. She was quite a novelty because she was the only girl with all these boys in the engineering courses.

BBC: Very impressive. She lives in Newark, Delaware.

EGH: That's right. She was quite a character too. We had a lot of other pleasant people. Then we had a lot of people that just took the two years and then went elsewhere. Rabbi Davidson's son went on to Columbia. The girl by the name of Dattner went on to Wellesley. And they never had any trouble getting into these schools you see.

BBC: Charlie Burns.

EGH: Oh yes, Charlie Burns. We had a number of people that went on and got their MDs. Mamary Warkomski and oh we must have had six or seven, Nicholas Lorusso at least six or seven doctors, MDs.

BBC: Do you, as far as the community itself and their acceptance of this brand new unusual school of learning, your own family for instance.

EGH: They were pleased of course.

BBC: People were pleased in the Valley, did it make a big difference?

EGH: The Valley is no different than it is now. The average don't know anything about these things at all.

But the ones that were, yes particularly the educated ones, we got a lot of help from them. What we call the old aristocratic classes here were very, very sponsorish and sympathetic and got right in. In fact, they were in it before; I mean they were all sounded out men like Conyngham, Kirby and what not, and very much interested. And later came through, when they saw that it was materializing, by gifts of houses and so on. Yes we had the support of what we call the (I don't like to use the term better) but the better educated ones.

BBC: Well those that had come through. Your own family background is of great interest and your own expertise in ethnic history.

EGH: Ethnic history.

BBC: Incidentally, I'd like to interject something here I should have said in the very beginning, today is Dr. Edward Hartmann's 81st birthday, so we are also wishing him Happy Birthday as well as our thanks for I know what will be one of the most fascinating of our oral histories but tell us a little bit about your own background.

EGH: Well I may have to blow my own horn in this connection. My last publication came out when I was 77 years old, and I'm having a new one coming out some time this year when I am 81. Which I think is rather unusual.

BBC: That's wonderful.

EGH: This is just, of course, a bibliography but it is a classified bibliography. And as she can probably tell you I have about eight publications. They didn't know that, but we don't like to be snobbish but the average professor writes a dissertation and never does anything after.

BBC: That's right.

EGH: But one of the things about Columbia and particularly Ivy League schools is they had a feeling down there that you just weren't anybody unless you had at least two publications. They insisted on the first one and you weren't it unless you had two. So I am very happy to say that I have about eight or nine. I'm also I think, oh, talk about blowing horns, I think I'm their first, I guess so, at any rate, the first graduate or alumnus to make Who's Who in America. I've been in it now for forty years. Something like that so that might be of interest, goes to show that that first education was really something else.

BBC: Tell us something about your family roots.

EGH: My family roots, alright. I'm typically an ethnic American. My German grandfather and grandmother came over about 1858 or maybe a little earlier than that from Germany as individuals and married over here. And he was successful; he went into the Civil War they caught him and he was in the Civil War, a veteran. And he had a meat market on Scott Street for many years, a very successful meat market. That's the German side, and the Welsh side came later. My Welsh grandfather came over about 1881, I think, and my mother was four years old at the time. He had had a successful career in mining. He was a mining engineer and when he came over here, his brother was already over here.

His brother was the superintendent, the assistant superintendent of the Kingston Coal Company. So he came over then in his late years. He was in his forties and so on. As far as I know he had a milk business and a few other things over here, but he had his money. In fact one of the interesting things is my grandmother went back twice. They didn't go back in those years the 1820's. She went back to see her own grandmother who was ninety years old. I hope I have that gene to live as long as she did. And I might add, thanks to going back, I had all the references in Wales whenever I got back. I had no trouble with it. Because if you know the Welsh, they all have about 20 different names and trying to locate your people. I might add that I have been back to all four my grandparents' home towns, the German and the Welsh. One other thing of interest, of course, the German side was Catholic and the Welsh side wasn't and I was reared in both and I think that made me a pretty good historian. I could look at a story on all sides and what have you and so I could do a nice job on the Wyoming Valley later. And I hope that all of you people have looked sometime at my ethnic history on Wyoming Valley, which is published by Wilkes College, their first publication. I think what you'll find interesting is the statistics. Now what, the background? Alright the Welsh side was in mining and what not and my grandfather the public market and what not.

BBC: There is also the slight connection to the Capin name and what we now called our Capin Hall.

EGH: It is what we call in German, what's the word for it, a classy group.

BBC: An elite.

EGH: An elite. One of my friends wrote a book on Evan Davies, not a very good one I don't think. I like the guy he's nice and so on.

BBC: Edward Davies? I told him all about it.

EGH: Yes. He speaks, he speaks of ethnic elites. Well, I happen to belong to both the Welsh and the German Elite so called and so on. Well, why are we called elite? Well you don't know but if the, in the immigrant groups the ones that were shopkeepers and saloonkeepers and what not, they educated their kids and they became the lawyers, the doctors of the next generation and what have you and so on. So here I am, of course, and in this case it's the butcher business or it was something else. And you went right up the stairs you see. So I was probably an ethnic elite, and one reason is probably my aunt. My aunt married an ordinary German man, too. But he was very very successful and he became one of Wilkes-Barre's millionaires. His name was Weaver and he was the proprietor of Richter and Weaver Brewery and he was my godfather, by the way, and his name was George Weaver. They built the house which is now Capin Hall which is right across the street from Weckesser. So, unlike Mr. Davies who seemed to think that the only people of knowledge around here were the old guard, I bring out the fact that some of the nicest mansions in Wilkes-Barre were built for the children of German immigrants. And right across the street you have Weckesser Hall, where I am right now. He was the son of German immigrants and right next door was Kev Stegmaier's, the big house, and he was the son of German immigrants. Across the street was my uncle and aunt, son of German immigrants, and the German element at that time. But I'm sure you'd find some Irish and what not all around here, but they were not all the old Wasp element by any means.

BBC: That's very important and wonderful to add to this.

EGH: Oh, of course, that means one reason I might add that because of all of our various national groups here, Polish, Lithuanian, Slovak, and so on, I have always been interested in all of them and hence my whole field then became American ethnic history. And I should say that I am a pioneer in that field. The late Louie Adamick who is prominent encouraged me to do these things and what not and well. Should I tell them I have two classic works? Movement to Americanize the Immigrant is a classic work on that subject and still in print after 48 years.

BBC: Could you say it again please.

EGH: The Movement to Americanize the Immigrant. Columbia University Press. The other one is Americans from Wales, which is the classic work on Welsh immigration, my mother, of course, having been born there and that's available, too. And the third one I'm very proud of is a little text book called American Immigration and is the pilot group for a whole series on Slovak, Italians, and what not and so on and so forth, and those are my three main publications.

BBC: What press did your third one?

EGH: The third one is Lerner Press out in Milwaukee. It's a textbook, this is the only textbook, and you can go through it. It is a nice little pilot volume and what not.

BBC: Okay, great.

EGH: I haven't said anything about, let's see, I want to clear up back at the Junior College what was doing there. Let's see, I mentioned the funny situations, Justin. Oh, this will be of interest, I did this. They had Greek fraternities down at Bucknell and all over at the time. We decided, I decided, that we'll do something different, we'd have an Egyptian one. Of course I didn't know too much about the story of the sororities and what not which of course went back to Greek culture. So I went to Professor McCrossen who was the (I'll have more to say about him later) and I said give us some Egyptian, he knew some Egyptian, so we came out we had the Sen Baiu. And the Sen Baiu was what we called a fraternity and there were 12 of us Novs, Ambrose Saricks, myself and I think Joe Salsburg, Joe Lord, and we formed the nucleus of the Sen Baiu. Egyptian we don't do them on campus with their Greek letters. Well John D. Eisenhower they didn't like this, for one thing they didn't want any fraternities here, and I might say, you don't have them still do you?

BBC: No we don't have them.

EGH: I might say that we don't have them now here at Wilkes and I'm glad you don't and I hope you never do again. Maybe I should say at this time why I didn't like fraternities, never joined them, because I thought they were undemocratic. They kept people away. The University was to bring people together in understanding. They took them too soon and made peas in a pod and what not. Not that they didn't do a lot of good work. I have been an honorary member of some of them since, but I didn't feel, and I'm glad that Wilkes doesn't have any. Anyway they caught it right in the bud. So John said you can have the club but it's got to be open to all the male students. I said alright with me,

so we opened it up to everybody that was in on it and for the, I guess it disappeared after that but any way it was funny. Now what else? I think that's about all. I did give credit to the Osterhout Library. I gave credit to the YMCA; they were very helpful too from the athletic standpoint. Who else should we credit that might be forgotten? People along here, the educated community and all that. And oddly enough and strangely enough I should bring this out because later, back in the days of the fortress church, the Catholic Church, they kept an eye on it but there was never any trouble or anything of that sort, and it was only until later that we had the origins of King's College which I shall take up in due time. But this particular time and there was some wondering should they go or not but most of our kids were Catholic and they never had any complaints and there never was any bigotry or anything of that sort that I can recall and everybody was open and everything was fine in those years as it continued later.

BBC: When you went on to Bucknell as a group coming from a Junior College, was there any feeling?

EGH: Inferiority?

BBC: Yes, but not on your part, but on those of accepting you?

EGH: Well, yes, yes of course. I'm afraid Bucknell was pretty much the snob school back then in those days and they kind of looked askance at us. But we ran circles around them academically and that ended that. We were in a different league, the ones that went down. Oh by the way, that first class was funny because 50% were above average and 50% were terrible and they would never continue and dropped out. But the 50% that did went on and ran circles down there, and they were accepted, no questions. If you wanted to join the fraternities, in time they got in. Eleanor Scureman made Delta, one of the big ones, Phi Alpha Delta, Ambrose Saricks Phi Psi, and I could have joined Phi Psi. They wanted me, largely because of my academic record. You know how these fraternities are. But I never joined because I thought it was undemocratic and see I was older. I was 21 and I didn't like that sort of thing.

BBC: Yes, you knew some of the ropes. Perhaps you could tell us next if you're not exhausted. Do you want a glass of water?

EGH: No, after teaching for forty years.

BBC: Yes, of course. Well you brought us up-to-date with your experience in the service a little bit and then your telegram from Gene Farley.

EGH: Gene Farley, yes.

BBC: Telling you to come back, which you did. When you came back here to teach for that year, year-and-a-half, I think you said. What buildings were in use at that time and what were the changes you saw then and tell us about that.

EGH: Oh, Oh yes, alright. I don't think anything happened really in the building way until Gene took over. When we got Stark and Conyngham and then Kirby came later.

BBC: You mean Chase and Conyngham.

EGH: He gave us Stark. When I came, by that time there were all the ones that were torn down and old Conyngham; they didn't have the new Conyngham. That came later, but they had Kirby. My office was in Kirby, and Kirby had the library and a girl by the name of Brennan. I don't know what happened to her; she was the librarian. Well, let me say when I came back then we all had our offices over there, over the kitchen, and I had to laugh because I taught some of my classes in the kitchen in some of these old buildings that are now (what's the name of that building?)

BBC: Stark Learning Center.

EGH: Stark Learning Center, yeah there were three or four of them there that were torn down and I had my classes in the kitchen over here at the Kirby Hall. And right upstairs over the kitchen there was a whole series of little offices. Gene Farley lived upstairs on the top floor, you know, and the first floor was the library and anyway no--I guess Gene had the first, well, anyway but we could go over there. Because one time I left my office window open and I called back and Mrs. Farley came and closed it because there was a storm coming. And I had a very pleasant year-and-a-half there. I was in the corner. I was the only professor of History. There was not, that was it. I had two helpers--Herbert Lloyd from GAR High School taught nights and the Dean of Women taught a course, Mrs. Henderson was her name. She was the Dean of Women her husband Carl Henderson taught music and he was a prodigy of Pop Gies. And up there in that corner we had Dr. Craig in English. And on the other side we had a man by the name of Siemalavitz who taught Sociology and I was in the middle. And it was, I had a happy time and of course Gene Farley was over there upstairs and what not.

BBC: So what you're saying is that there you were in the offices over the kitchen in the back of Kirby Hall, second floor.

EGH: Right, right.

BBC: Dr. and Mrs. Farley lived upstairs on the third floor and the library was on the first floor. Were there classrooms then at all or no?

EGH: No I don't think. Yes. Wait I think I got it right now. Library was on the second floor and classrooms were down below. Yes they had the typing and the business courses there, over in Chase Hall, that's where the business were.

BBC: Okay.

EGH: He had his office there and Herb Morris was the registrar and Pop Gies lived upstairs in the third floor apartment. And they had sort of meeting rooms there. Up in Conyngham was where most of the science labs and what not were. I taught history and so on in these other buildings. So it was sort of a fly-about business. I don't know where their offices were up in Conyngham, some of the business offices and that type of thing. So it was right here.

- BBC:** So it was right localized along the University common.
- EGH:** By the way, we used the Presbyterian Church House. I had a number of classes over there too. And again the Osterhout Library was very helpful. I had a whole reading list of books, which we didn't have, but I pulled out and they had a special place for me, for my books, for my students to go for additional reading and term papers and that sort of stuff. So our relationship with the Osterhout Library was very, very close and I'm very proud of that at that time. I keep also reminding them not to forget Osterhout Library. One of the weaknesses of Mr. Farley was a tendency to be too self-centered and phooey on other people.
- BBC:** Well, you may or may not know that our President is on the Board of the Osterhout Library.
- EGH:** I know. I didn't mean to say, don't get the wrong impression.
- BBC:** No, no, I think that it's a good thing to remember these things.
- EGH:** Alright, okay now we're into teaching. Of course, Dr. Farley was very conservative, a liberal on that politically and what not but very conservative on such things as drinking or anything. So, we had a young instructor by the name of Donnelly. Oh dear, what is his first--Joe Donnelly, he taught English and we had another professor whose name was Ned Williams. He was the son of a doctor here in Susquehanna Hall or something and he went down to Philadelphia and what not. Then we had a Mrs. Williams, and I've forgotten her first name; she was a widow, and she was the author of a book on one of these philosophers or what are they over there in Persia, a sect that gets Bayu or some u--Baya or something anyway but she was well known. Gertrude Williams that came out. Well, we were characters, you know, so every Friday afternoon we had the Marching and Chowder Society, and when Gene wasn't in on this we'd march up to the Sterling Hotel which is alright and have cocktails, which he didn't know about, and if he did he didn't say anything. So Mrs. Williams, Joe Donnelly, and Al Groh would join us. Al Groh is still here; good God, he was just a child then, one of our teachers. Let's see who else was here.
- BBC:** Was she Mrs. John Howell Williams, Gertrude?
- EGH:** No no, I don't know, no no no. This is different, she wasn't local, she wasn't local.
- BBC:** Okay.
- EGH:** No, no she came from somewhere else. She wasn't.
- BBC:** And Al Groh was teaching at that point in Theater.
- EGH:** No, no English, I think English.
- BBC:** English, okay.

EGH: Did he have theater? He may have, I don't know, you'll have to ask him. Joe Donnelly taught English, Ned taught English. Who else was here at the time? Voris Hall of course was still here in physics all along. And let me see.

BBC: Had Chuck Reif come by then?

EGH: No no, yes, yes he had. Yes, Reif was here and Ralston was here.

BBC: And was John Chwalek?

EGH: No no he was later. He was later.

BBC: Okay.

EGH: Anyway, that's all I could think of at the moment it may come to me as we go along if you pump my mind.

BBC: What was the teaching like, what were the students like in those days?

EGH: Oh, they were very good because they were all veterans and I had a field day being a veteran myself. And amazingly it was like old times. They were very very good and we had no problems at all. In fact I had a veteran's club. I was the sponsor of it and I was the sponsor of a debating club and we debated King's. King's was open that same year. And what else? Well, being a veteran I fit in very nicely and they were mostly boys but we had some girl students.

BBC: Dormitory students too?

EGH: We had no dormitories, I don't know where they lived, they were on their own.

BBC: Well they were community kids probably most of them.

EGH: Yeah--well no, yeah I mean they came from distances. They stayed at the YMCA. We had no dormitories. I don't recall any.

BBC: Okay, probably not yet. You mentioned King's. What kind of feeling was going on then as King's was starting their college?

EGH: Well, this is very personal but I always like to think, maybe I shouldn't say this, that Dr. Farley is the founder of two colleges. Now why do I say that? Well, I'd have done the same thing as he did and gotten into trouble if I were in his position. I was then what you would call a real liberal and so was he. And the Catholic Church was very, very conservative. This was before good old John XXIII opened up the window and all that sort of stuff. And I forgot just what but Gene would sound off on this or that so on and so forth. And I had the feeling that got the Bishop a little bit worried about his good Catholic boys here and what not. And finally that's the reason we had King's. They opened up the same place. The relationship was marvelous afterwards. But there really was no need for two

colleges here. So maybe I do Gene an injustice but maybe it would have come anyway, who can say? I got along fine with them. I took the kids up there and, of course, the good fathers that came in there were different and so on. I might add, the difference between the parish priest in the sense the parish bishops and the orders, the orders of Jesuits, Holy Cross and what not are better educated, have a more cosmopolitan attitude and get along a heck of a lot better with everybody and even in those days. Today, of course, it's different--but in those days they were the pioneers that--oh, let's stop this stuffy nonsense and so on. But there was a particularly stuffy bishop at that time. I think he was, and I might remind you people that because of the bishops the National Catholic Polish Church was founded in this area, a splinter group from nonsense done from bishops up there. You can quote me on that if you want to.

BBC: That's very interesting.

EGH: Yes it is.

BBC: To know that background.

EGH: Yes, it is because they were very, very arrogant a lot of them. Maybe I do them misjustice but they seemed to me to be arrogant.

BBC: After '46 and you left in '47 to go.

EGH: I left in '47 because they didn't pay me enough. Gene, of course, will never forgive me. Never forgive me, once you left the team why that was it. I used to come back to talk to him and what not but that was the kiss of death. Well I left. One, they didn't pay me too well and went on to my veterans business. I wanted to get another degree. I thought I'd like to try library work for a while, which I did. I became the Director of Libraries for ten years but that tied you down too much so I went back to teaching. I taught a lab by the way, taught as well as Director up there. I went back to straight teaching for the last twenty years.

BBC: Taught what? Library Ed, is that what you said?

EGH: No, no no, I was the Director of Libraries but I also taught two or three courses regularly in two in History. So I got tired of running libraries and being tied down to what I call an administrative job when you can have the nice summers off and that sort of thing, so I took off then. Where was I? The reason I left suddenly, I enjoyed it here. I often regretted it later; maybe I should have stayed in my hometown. But then maybe I couldn't have written my books because I didn't have the facilities of Harvard Library and all the great books, you know, the facilities at Boston and also the cosmopolitan area of Boston. I'd probably have been happier there, I would have gotten into a fight with Gene sooner or later. We were too strong minded against each other. But I appreciated him and certainly he made Wilkes, and Wilkes should be very proud of him. We were good friends towards the end. He always made a fuss over me and that type of thing. For a while he was very leery about anything that happened here before he was here. Well, why not he made the school.

BBC: You might wish to comment as you have been a very loyal alumnus and I wonder if as you have come

back to Wilkes-Barre and as you've come back to visit the college, what changes you've seen in the alumni program, and any comments you might have about that about being an alumnus.

EGH: Well first I should say that I practically came back every summer. I summered here all that 40 years or so with my sister and brother-in-law up on East South Street. So I could keep my eye on Wilkes as it developed and usually dropped in and say hello to Farley and what not all along. I'm not too sure; I got always regular alumni data and what not and it seemed to me they were always doing a good job. I can't say that I would give any negative. I thought under the circumstances they did it as they went along and I don't think there is much more they could do, really. If that's what you're thinking of and was there any criticism.

BBC: Well, I think we've seen as the college has matured, we've seen a growth in the program and much more development of our alumni in terms of helping them as they live in different parts of the country to tie in back here to Wyoming Valley a bit. This is needed in development and cultivation.

EGH: Well, I would say this now again I don't know whether it was who was the second president, Italian?

BBC: Dr. Michelini.

EGH: Dr. Michelini or Capin were the first to invite us, the Junior College; Gene never bothered but I mean and got us active I think. So I give more credit there. Maybe I do, I don't recall Gene being too much interested in those of us and it was after and the four-year institution, so the rest of us were sort of in limbo, but now that we're brought back I was very pleased that they made a fuss over us for the 50th anniversary and they've been doing it since and so on, because we're part of the school.

BBC: You were the pioneers.

EGH: One of the great regrets that I have is that we didn't have an associate degree at Wilkes because they could have given us associate degrees later and we could put it in our bio sketches. AA Wilkes and then BS. I think I have suggested that to the great white father but that didn't get anywhere either. For instance in my Ph.D. biography it says nothing about Wilkes except that I taught there. Whereas it could have been in my list as an AA or Associate in Arts or something or what not. Even though its posthumous I could put it down.

BBC: That's too bad. You know I wonder; that's interesting that you could do that. Carey Evans, it's just occurred to me. Carey Evans was a member of our Board and he was in your class.

EGH: Oh yes, yes. Well Carey and his brother Judd were members of the first class. They were the sons of a Baptist Minister a missionary and what not. And they, neither one of them could go on because the mother was a widow. Regrettably they were good students. They never forgot Wilkes, the Junior College was their school. I understand that there is a tree out here in the quadrangle in memory of them. I would like sometime maybe if they want to remember me, a plaque or something over there in the Marts Quadrangle.

BBC: How did you all use that Marts, you're talking about the Marts

EGH: Yeah that came later. We didn't have it at that time.

BBC: How about the greens area behind what was the church?

EGH: Oh, it was fun in there, they had a cafeteria over here. Oh I guess they built the cafeteria and that was there at the time. This was the little nucleus down here, the cafeteria. They didn't have the church yet; it was down at that end and the dramatics was end at the end of a garage, I guess, Chase garage.

BBC: Chase Carriage House.

EGH: And we went over to the cafeteria they tore down. It was roughly on the Franklin Street side of where the library is over here, next to the Kirby House. We were still on the Kirby plot; we didn't have the Franklin Street plot and that was over there. We had dinners there and stuff like that and what not. It was very charming. I enjoyed all of that. And we traipsed up the street to the place, but this was the nucleus, Farley's office the whole thing right now where the Burns thing is--that quadrangle.

BBC: Where the Burns Tower is now, that's where you're talking about. But the Christian Science Church that was still there.

EGH: Oh yes, the Christian Science Church. They kept that until they moved over to Kingston and then I think we purchased it, much later. Oh they did have a couple of houses by the way on Franklin Street, which were torn down where the library is now.

BBC: Yes right here, Okay.

EGH: A double block or something. I think Gies had the music department in there. I believe there was the library, they had those.

BBC: Mengel, Dr. Mengel's house was there and a couple of others were there.

EGH: Where I guess the parking lot is now.

BBC: The parking lot. And as you said the rest was part of the library.

EGH: Yes I remember those now, I never had any classes there.

BBC: So it was growing.

EGH: Yes they didn't have anything on Northampton Street. Because Ned Williams's father had his estate and those Susquehanna ones were bought later.

BBC: That's right. Okay.

- EGH:** They didn't have the one on the corner. The one on the corner, by the way, was the old Zeb Butler's house, where my cousin lived.
- BBC:** Where Evans Hall is now. Zebulon Butler's. That is the oldest town plot, the most interesting one for us.
- EGH:** That's my cousin, she married George Weaver.
- BBC:** Oh, that's where Frances?
- EGH:** No no that's where --
- BBC:** The Paynes lived there.
- EGH:** No before that. Margaret Butler. And there is something about your mother's house down there, too, with the Butler House.
- BBC:** Yes.
- EGH:** I think the old Butler House, the Paynes bought, was at the corner--Margaret Butler. Margaret Butler, incidentally, is the last descendent of the Butler name in the Wyoming Valley.
- BBC:** Is she here now? No she's gone.
- EGH:** She's the mother of Jane. She is the last of the Butler name here. There are Butlers elsewhere.
- BBC:** I don't know how to stop it. Let's turn this off for a minute.

(Remainder of tape was blank)

Bits and Pieces

Both Ambrose Saricks '35 and Ed Hartmann '35 of BUJC and Bucknell were made alumni members of Bucknell's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Ed Hartmann started the professor Oliphant Scholarship at Bucknell (his teacher here and there).

Dr. Arnaud Marts was a friend of Ed Hartmann's who encouraged him to go on to Columbia University from Bucknell.

Thor Lewis, class of '35 here, and Ed Hartmann watched Ku Klux Klan march in Forty Fort in 1928. The song books at Dallas School where Thor taught were inscribed as gifts from the Ku Klux Klan.

Some of the students in Professor Hartmann's Wilkes Class (BUJC) in '46-'47 were:

Joe Savitz
(Judge) Ed Kosik
Joe Kanner
Bob Riley
Marvin Roth
Harry L. Davis
Phil Baron



SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

Memorandum

College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

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Dr. Edward G. Hartmann
Prof. Emeritus of History

~~P.O. Box 1036~~
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new street address:
20032 Orange Tree Lane
Estero, FL 33928
16 April 1993

Ms. Betsy Bell Condron
Director of Community Relations
Wilkes University
S. Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

Dear Betsy:

I have your postcard of April 2. Yes, I shall hope to be in Wilkes-Barre from Sunday, May 2nd until Saturday May 8th. I shall be staying at the Remada Inn on the Square. All of this is hopeful; at my age any thing is possible, but I have my reservations. You can call me at the hotel.

I shall be very happy to take part in the oral history project. Be sure to have an alumni directory with you or the person who will conduct the interview.

See if you can borrow a copy of Sally Teller Lottick's new book (Bridging Change, a Wyoming Valley Sketchbook). I'd like to read it while at the hotel.

Planning to go to Britain in June if all goes well.

Kind regards

E.G.H.

Ill be 81 May 3rd!

4-19-93

The Admiral Harold R. Stark Learning Center,
Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. View
from the Susquehanna River Common.

Thanks for your note —
Delighted to know you'll
give us an hour of oral
history — Hope this time &
date is OK w. you... Monday,
May 3 at 10:30 AM in
Weekesser Hall. Maybe you
will make some notes about
people — early events you
deem important. I'll see
you then and for lunch, too!
Betsy Condon

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

POST CARD
ADDRESS

Dr. Ed. G. Hartman
20032 Orange Tree Ln
Estero, FL
33928

Oral History - May 3, 1993

Dr. Edward G. Hartmann '35

Author, Educator, Eminent Scholar, Descendant of old Welsh ^{early} pioneer, and Graduate of BUJC in 1935 - Then on to Bucknell ^{family here} ...

Taught History ^{here '46 for} ~~at '47~~ ^{and a half} for one year and then moved on.
- Probably our first Ph.D. ...

Historian of 90th Infantry

'38-'43... at Columbia - Then into service...

Division -

Retired Major in Reserves

✓ Birthday

✓ any (How did W-B people accept this idea)

✓ Your recollections of the community's efforts to start BUJC

✓ your own family background -

• Bldgs. here when you came back to teach?

✓ Ethnic Elites - (Nicest mansions bld. for/by children of immigrants)
(8 Publications) -

Prof Machracken
Sen Bain - Egyptian
12 sholes in it

cadets - Mrs John Howell (was) (Berkeley English)

- Carey Evans -

- Regue in Marts Center - for Ed Hartmann. -

our Director 1st
Dr. John Eisenhower

Chicago Plan adopted
a survey of this
& that required for
1st 2 years.

U. of Kansas

Ambrose
Searls

Robert Carter

Joe Lord - PH. I

Ed Hartmann - 2

Dyllis Jones

Eleanor Fox -
Bison Stampede

Songy - 7y bushi -