

GEORGE F. RALSTON
DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
WILKES COLLEGE
WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Born Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1917
Educated in the public schools of Harrisburg, Pa.
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Graduate study Harvard University, Columbia University
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Director, Boy Scouts of America, Wyoming Valley Council
Chairman, Mental Health Board
Married, four sons
Presently Dean of Student Affairs, Wilkes College

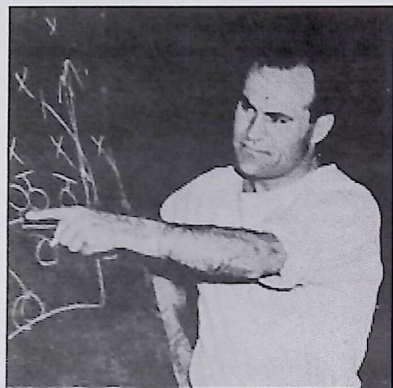
In Memoriam:
George F. Ralston



October 1, 1917 - March 2, 2007

"A man makes no noise over a good deed, but passes on to another as a vine to bear grapes again in season."

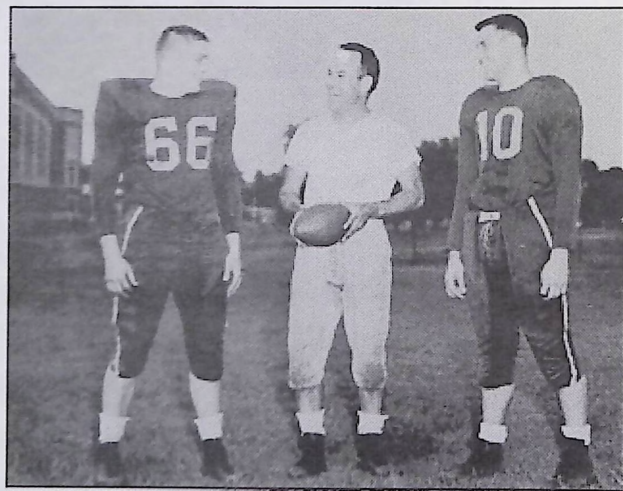
Marcus Aurelius



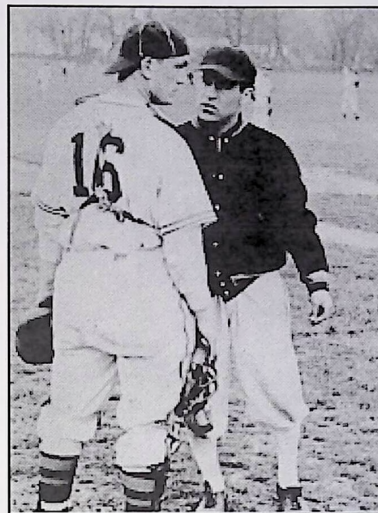
"With only a handful of boys from his great 1949 club, Coach George Ralston once again produced a spirited football team for Wilkes in 1950. The little master with the Southern drawl, who has never known a poor football season in his five-year hitch, built the club around shifty Al Nicholas and a hard-hitting line." *Annicola, 1951.*

"We live in deeds, not years, in thoughts, not breaths, in feelings, not in figures on a dial."

Philip James Bailey



Dan Pinkowski, Coach George Ralston and George Elias, 1952.



Last minute instructions,
1947

Getting the good word,
1948



Sometimes, we
have good days.



Sometimes, we
don't
"Judas Priest!"

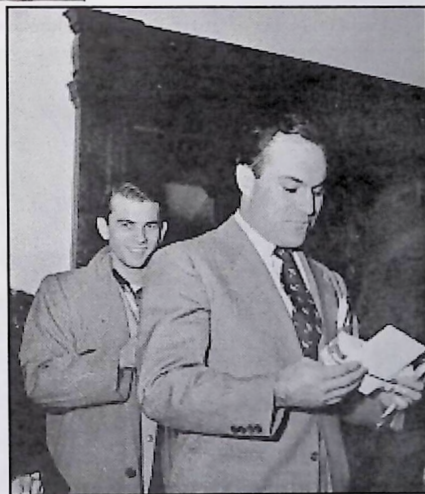
Kings
Scores,
1950



The gentle mind by gentle
deeds is known.
For man by nothing is so well
bewrayed:
As by his manners.

Edmund Spenser

A quiet
moment,
1950





Who's it
for,
Coach?
1950

Dan Pinkowski - Outstanding Backfieldman of the Year, 1950

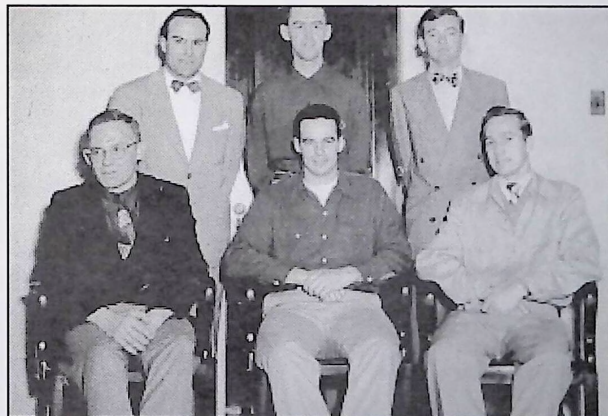


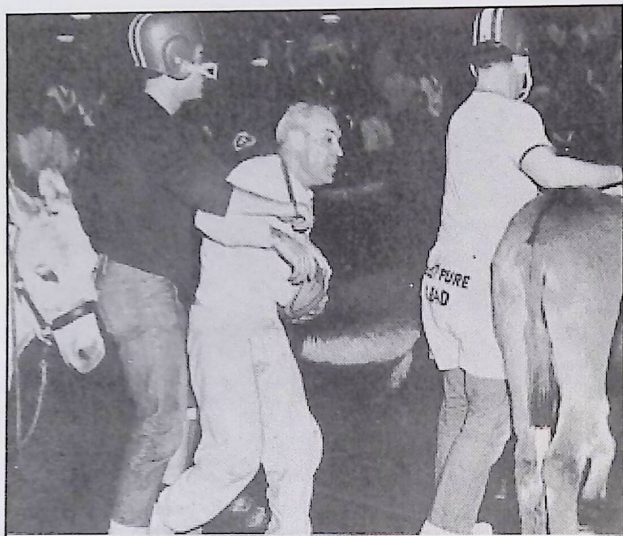
Between halves at the Letterman's Dance, 1953

How far that little candle throws its beams.
So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

William Shakespeare

Christmas Formal, 1951





On occasion, the duties of a Dean of Student Affairs can bring one to unique situations. Dean Ralston referees a donkey basketball game in 1964, a more politically incorrect time.

Bet on the donkeys.

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed.
Whose deeds both great and small, where love ennoble all.
The world may sound no trumpet, ring no bells;
The book of life the shining record tells.

Attributed to Elizabeth Barrett Browning

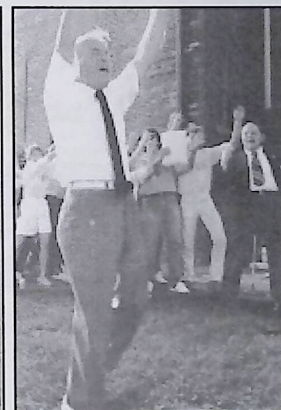
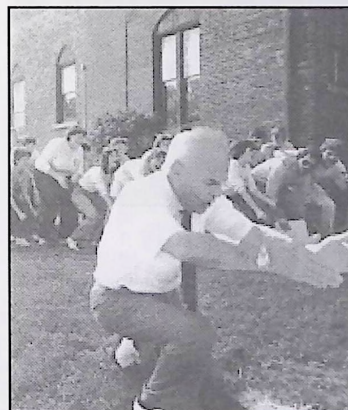
George
Ralston
and Jane
Lampe,
1975

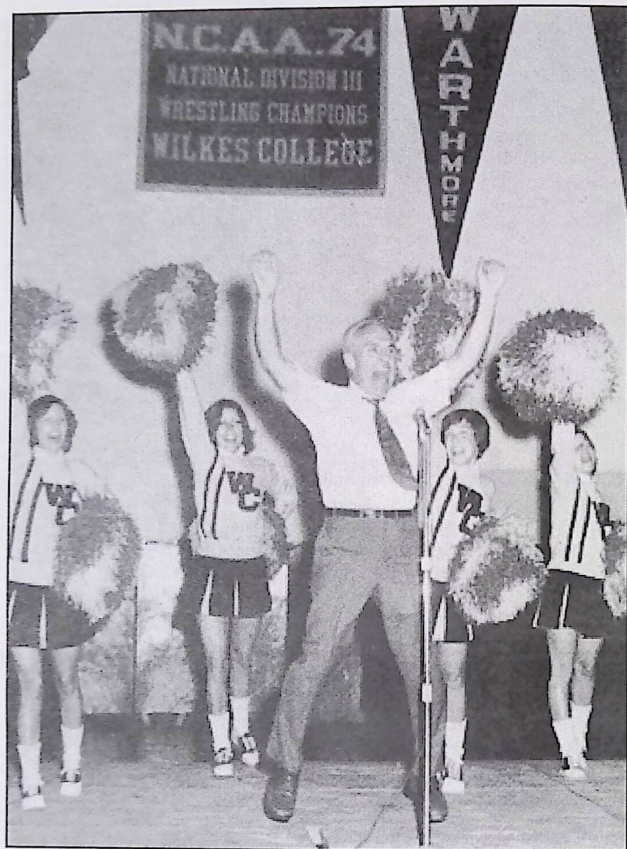


Orientation 1984

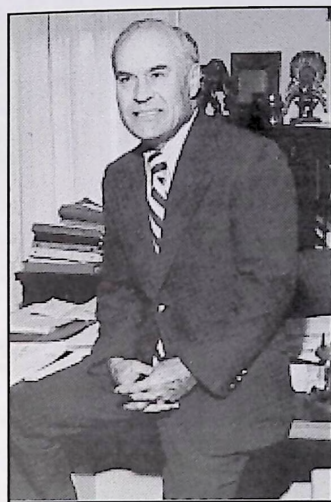
This is where it all begins at Wilkes College. Each year the orientation program is slightly different in regards to its planned events. This year it included everything from the traditional Ralston Cheer to an ice cream social, a picnic, and a multimedia show. *Ammicola 1985*

Dean Ralston shows them the proper way.



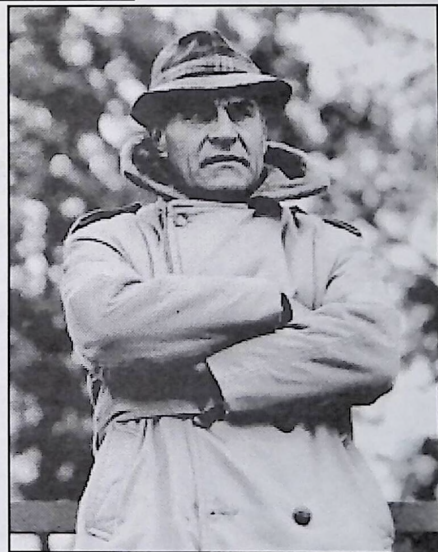


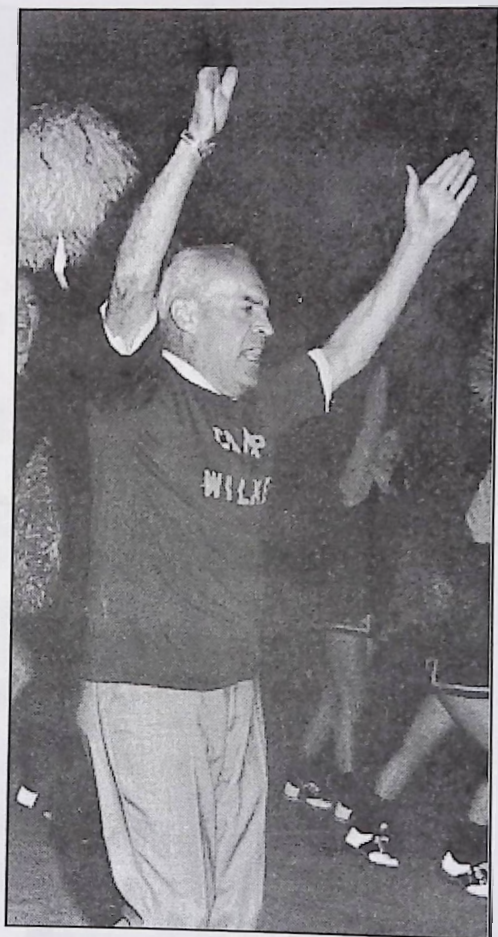
Dean Ralston and a few friends lead cheers at a homecoming event in the Wilkes Gymnasium in the fall of 1975.



Dean of
Student
Affairs
1975

Eminence
Grise,
1985





**"Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rage at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."**

Dylan Thomas



WILKES COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
FACULTY PERSONNEL RECORD

Name RALSTON George FRANCIS
Last Name First Name Middle Name
Born OCT. 1 1917 HARRISONBURG, VA.
Month Date Year Place of birth (Town-State)

Married to _____
Month -- Year Place

Children (1) _____ (2) _____
First name - Middle - Married
(3) _____ (4) _____
(5) _____ (6) _____

Your Parents' Name SAMUEL HOPKINS LEORA CORINTH
Father Mother

Your early education Herbert Hoover Jr High Susquehanna Twp HARRISON
Grammar Prep Place Year PA

College education (Give colleges or universities attended, all degrees, class years, and course of major study. Also give honorary degrees).

U of N. CAROLINA 1936-1946 - AB

Professional positions held prior to Wilkes. (Give positions - places and dates in teaching and administration).

Forty Fort HS. 1940-41 Inst in Eng. - Coach of
Football + Basketball

Professional record at Wilkes College. (Specify instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, professor, or administrative position, and years (dates) in each position).

Guidance Counsellor 1946

Inst in Biol

Dean of men

Dir of Athletics

Coach of Football - Basketball + Baseball

Other positions (Business - Professional - Scientific Research, etc., give firms, places dates).

Church 1st Presbyterian College Fraternity

Lodges _____ Service Clubs Rotary

Honorary Societies _____ Professional Societies NEA

Publications (Books, recent magazine articles, listing titles, and dates).

Honors Won (Scholarships, Fellowships, Medals, etc.).

GRAIL Society - UNC
Golden Fleece - UNC

GRAIL Awards for
Outstanding Scholarship
Among Athletes

What is your professional hobby? (Field of special interest).

What is your recreational hobby? (Avocation).

Music - Opera

War Record (Branch of service, tours of duty, rank or rate).

World War II 1941-1946

Anti Aircraft Major

Your Alumni Magazine

Carolina Alumni Review

Remarks:

June 1, 1955

Mr. Francis J. Bradigan, Principal
Jenkins Township High School
Jenkins Township, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Bradigan:

The following data are, I hope, sufficient for what you have requested on Dean Ralston.

1. Born in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
2. Attended school in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
3. Graduated from the University of Carolina in 1940 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology. At North Carolina he received the two highest honorary awards that the University offered and scholastic trophies in football and baseball for highest academic achievements among participants in those sports.
4. Taught in Forty Fort schools for one and one-half years.
5. Served four and one-half years in the United States Army, discharged with rank of major. Post-service experience, nine years as Dean of Men and Director of Athletics at Wilkes College.
6. Graduate study at Harvard and Columbia Universities. Will take leave of absence in school year of 1955 and 1956 for completion of requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree at Columbia.

Sincerely yours,

Welton G. Farrar

WGF:mlm

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George Francis Ralston

- George Francis Ralston was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia on October 1, 1917, the youngest of nine children.
- He attended public schools in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Susquehanna Township High School.
- He graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the University of North Carolina in 1940; also played football; and was a member of the Grail and Golden Fleece Honor Societies and Who's Who Among American Colleges and University Students.
- He pursued graduate work at Harvard and Columbia universities.
- He served as a teacher and a football and basketball coach for the Forty Fort High School from 1940-41.
- He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-46—Anti-Aircraft Artillery, served in Africa and the South Pacific; received two Purple Hearts; entered as a Private, discharged as a Major.
- He joined Wilkes University (then Bucknell University Junior College) in 1946 and worked as a guidance counselor.
- He founded the Wilkes football program and coached the team from 1946-1954.
- He coached Wilkes basketball for 10 years and baseball for five years.
- He is known as the "Father of Wilkes Athletics."
- He served as Dean of Men for 20 years, Dean of Women, and Director of Athletics. He is Dean Emeritus of Student Affairs.
- He volunteered for the following community affiliations: Wilkes-Barre YMCA, Rotary Club, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Wyoming Valley Council Churches, and the Mental Health Board.
- His honors include: 1998 Interfaith Council Award; Honorary Doctor of Science Degree, Wilkes University; and Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America. He was the guest of honor April 2001 at the Wilkes University Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.
- He is a deacon, elder and trustee of the First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre.
- He currently resides in Wilkes-Barre with wife Helen.
- He is the father of four sons, David, John, Tom and Jamie, all graduates of Wilkes University.
- He continues to serve as Special Assistant for the Alumni Relations Office.

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"A DO FOR THE DEAN"

May 31, 1986

WRITTEN BY
LAMPÉ-GROH

The word of the Dean's retirement - announced from Weckesser Hall, reverberated among the well-known communities of Harrisonburg, Mocaqua, Chapel Hill, and really shook up Upper Askam - so much so that the residents relocated to Lower Askam.

Upon hearing the news, Norman Cross hurriedly packed his penicillin and took off on his sixth around-the-world trip to consult with Wilkes alumni. Accompanying Norman to assure favorable weather conditions - was one Ann Azat.

One immediate decision (there was no retreating while they moved backward) was reached upon Norm's polling of the world-wide alumni. The alumni voiced, "Judas Priest, we've got to have a party!" Chairman of this fine event was to be Marty Blake. Marty, the busy man he is making deals, needed some immediate assistance, so none other than Betsy Bell was called in to plan the party "down to the gnats nut." The date was set for May 32nd, however, it was soon noted that this was Shavouth - so alternate arrangements were made to have the celebration on an unknown, often forgotten holiday, July 20th. There existed a pool that the party would never occur. But Marty, chomping on his cigar, fooled them all.

As with any good organization that is not flat, a hierarchy of committees with functionary and direct lines of reporting was established.

Because of the Dean's frequent question of, "Have you taken nourishment?," and his philosophy of, "It'll do you good and help you too," the most important committee chairmanship was to be that of the food committee. Looking for someone with extensive experience in food service, it became a huckleberry vs. a persimmon whether or not Steve VanDyke, Shelly Urban, Cress Shallers, or Ellen McDermott should pull this load. The women involved were "bawling like calves" when they were not chosen, but George, always at the ready, had his usual supply of kleenex available and was in a "moderate state" of euphoria over Steve's selection.

Steve went right to work and selected as appetizers, tacos stuffed with pineapple and bananas seasoned with curry and bagels topped with garlic whipped cream. The main course was chicken and lamb kabobs with mushrooms. Sweet potatoes, rutabaga and sauerkraut accompanied the meal. Steve had thought of ice cream for dessert, but substituted pies instead. Steve did consult with Fred Wall, who judged the menu to be

"very tasty." One afterthought--Steve wanted to serve pickled eggs at the event, however no soda machine could be located to store the jars with the eggs therein.

As preparations for the "Do for the Dean" continued, many people worked on their travel plans and the agenda for the party. Others, unable to travel, were invited to submit some reflections on their experiences under the Dean.

Art Kruger, now the proprietor of Kruger's Hall of Fame Coaching School, did write that he felt George needed lessons in two areas: how to coach and score national championships; and how to score without a convertible.

Speaking of convertibles, Rob Paustian had to send regrets because he was following Hsi-Ping, Dale, and Nada's unsuccessful search to locate the seventy-five reference books last seen serving as ballast in the trunk of a convertible.

Beryl Cole also had to send regrets. She wanted to be at the party, but her hair was in curlers as she was preparing to attend an alumni reunion at Whittier with her classmate Richard Nixon.

Dr. Doane would have attended, but he was terribly involved prescribing medicines for George. Although George had

been heard saying, "I don't know what went wrong, but I feel good today." Dr. Doane none the less felt George should have some bottles of pills to line up on his mantel. Dr. Doane did become weary of trying to supply the needed Nutriobio pills, so George went to Dr. Kerr. From Dr. Kerr the Dean learned one essential lesson: Do not miss an appointment! It is anticipated that in the future Ahmad Harris will provide any necessary or unnecessary pills for the Dean.

For such an elaborate "Do" important preparations continued. This party was, afterall, an attempt to make a "silk purse out of a sow's ear." No expense was to be spared so Marty, as the General Chairman, appointed a Finance Committee. Because of his solid accounting practices, Ed "the Bolt" Baltruchitis was imported from South Carolina to head the Finance Committee. The Bolt immediately placed Kendall McNeill in charge of donations. Since no one could collect better than Kendall, he was totally successful in this effort. The Bolt also felt that he, because of his own successful dealings with the public, should head up the Public Relations staff for the party. He was given hearty recommendations for this post by Ethel Farley as well as the State Troopers policing the Beaumont, Pennsylvania area.

Some felt this party was to be compared to a "pimple on a wart hog", others recognized its true value. Anticipating the throngs who would attend, each person saying to the other, "If I'd known you were comin' I'd have baked a cake", Marty immediately set in place a Security Committee. This sterling committee was chaired by Rick Gaetano, Don Mendl, Pat Damiani and Barry Zoppo. One of their first tasks was to rescue the Dean who, with Helen on the handlebars, rode through the parking gate on their way to the "Dean's Do." "Dia Bella Mamma", General Gaetano exclaimed as he rescued the Dean and Mother.

This mishap was captured on camera and video by Sanyo Shoyinka. Sanyo had been appointed by the Bolt, and Sanyo had prepared for the occasion by visits to Ace Hoffman and various haberdashery establishments. At each business Sanyo merely said, "Charge It."

Charles Kuralt, the selected Master of Ceremonies, asked Terry Sanford, the main speaker, to limit his remarks to eighty-seven minutes. Terry encountered only two problems. He was interrupted by Tom Harfman, Jr., who thought the party was in honor of Mahmoud Fahmy (and who gave the appropriate

address.) Terry was also interrupted by Dan Flood, whose arrival in his helicopter caused somewhat of a distraction, especially when his cape was caught in the helicopter blades. (The incident did, however, sharpen his moustache.)

Dan arrived just in time for the entertainment, which was "lavish and spared no expense." We began with the reappearance of Jack Feeney, George McMahon, Ollie and Paul Thomas, and Dan Sadvary leading the can-can dancers. The accompaniment for their appearance was supposed to have been Dina Wasileski playing the accordion. Unfortunately, she had injured her "big ones" playing the accordion one week earlier than the party. The Aboutanos sisters came through, however, as always, and belly-danced until "the cows came home." In recognition of the Dean's great devotion to the arts, the Cap and Bell Singers mangled-excuse me, I mean managed- to render a four and one-half hour concert in honor of the Dean. It should be noted that, in honor of the Dean, "and in the event he becomes unable to ride his bike", the Cap and Bell singers have arranged to have their twice daily rehearsals in George's backyard- so he will not be deprived of this cultural beneficence.

To insure that the Dean is adequately entertained in his retirement years, his staff has thoughtfully insisted that seven of the most infamous rock bands play music for his enjoyment (and the enjoyment of all of his neighborhood and environs) each evening promptly at the dinner hour and /or when the news is on television. To insure he also remains au courant, the Dean has been named the official invocation and benediction giver at each and every event, speech, program, film or service addressing/pertaining to/or remotely connected with the Holocaust.

Lots of people came to celebrate with the Dean. Ann Flaver came- in her hot wedding gown. She brought 382 pictures of her grandchildren for George to review. (They were all ugly too.) Ruth McKechnie came as well- she insisted on being part of the program-but Debbie Hargraves (saying that, "Afterall she was the 'big time' ") usurped Ruth's spot.

Ron Fitzgerald, Ron Resicgno, Bill Kaye and Lee Auerbach shared a table. It was a table noted for its poor conversationalists. I guess they just didn't have anything to talk about...

Many plans were made to keep the Dean active in his retirement. Iris Levy and Sue Tomalis will be giving the Dean dancing lessons nine times each week. This will hopefully prepare him for assuming the lead in La Cage Aux Folles in early 1987. After he proves himself (herself?) in this role, the Dean will embark on his lifetime ambition to star in (and be surrounded by) Cats. He will be Mr. Mistoffeleers and Mother will dump all her students, dash to the Big Apple and be Grizabella, the Glamour Cat. Riding the cherry-picker will give George the added experience which will allow him to rescue Ron the Allentown cat, should Ron ever be up a tree again.

To insure that the Raging Ralstons are hassle-free when in New York, Ed "the Bolt" and Linda Hobrock will hide in a parking lot reserved for their use.

It is expected that summer weekends will find the Ralstons in the Hamptons, weekendening with Dean D'Amico.

Wintertime we anticipate finding the Dean as a consultant to the Farley-Can-Find-Them-Firm, Incorporated- A firm devoted to rescuing those lost in the snow.

One reads much about the perils of retirement, the concerns it brings. However, the Dean has been well provided for

in these areas as well. As counselors for retirement Frances Mitzi Sears, Ann Wall, Leslie Smith and Dave Baltimore have been placed on a permanent retainer. They are expected to call on the Dean once a day, every day, to give him counsel and comfort.

We did forget to mention two outstanding gifts given to the Dean. Columbia University, on hearing of George's retirement was going to give him an honorary doctorate. Columbia's Board of Trustees opted, however, to give George a permanent room on the seventh floor of John Jay Hall, directly across from the St. Lukes Hospital Nurses Residence- and a pair of binoculars.

Al Molash presented George with a wonderful new convertible, unfortunately Al locked the keys for the car inside the open convertible on his way to the party.

Matt Miner's uncle couldn't attend, but Matt brought a truckful of corn for all to enjoy.

And Frances Devan Sitar McLaughlin Wildes distributed party favors to all the guests-cigars for the men, and panty hose for the women.

It was a strange party, however. Some people were noticeably absent. The crack reporter Maureen Klaproth said, "Open up the sweeper and let's have the dirt" and then she

discovered the whereabouts of certain colleagues of the Dean who should have been there. Where were they???

Well, Arthur Hoover-he ran away with the rich widow he met on his last cruise and they were- at the very moment of the party- studying the bogs on Lake Nuangola.

And Jane Lampe-Groh??? Well, she was off on vacation (Don't I remember you-do you still work at the College??) But she claimed she was on a special Synodical appointment for her old buddy the Bishop.

The Adamases?? They said that they were just too, too busy to attend. They were repainting their new basement apartment in Mrs. Jackier's house and sent word that she was much more fun to spend time with than the Dean and Helen.

Sue Tomalis couldn't get to the party because she, "dumb Dutch" that she is, was still at the Leslie Fay outlet and Fashion Plus, trying to decide what outfit to get for the "Dean's Do" and what to select for her new role as the Dean's dancing instructor.

Peggy Jones would have been there-but two things interfered- it was the opening day of the Flea Market- and she really had not house cleaned her attic since last week.

Gail did want to be there, but she was tied up in Weckesser searching for the folders of Brian Budzyak, Cathy Glatzel, and Jackie Kramer.

Art and Betty Daly "planned their work and tried to work their plan" but, shortly before the start of the party, Betty went into labor with quadruplets. Art felt compelled to be at her side. Somewhat concerned, Art did call in his counselor, Joe Lord. Joe had abandoned his counseling career in favor of his new role as a stand-up comedian in Las Vegas, but he did return to help Art and Betty.

Rachel and Bill truly meant to be there- but Rachel, well you know Rachel-she was off at yet another convention. And Bill?? Well Bill just opted to go for yet another big promotion. He couldn't take time from his crash course in the priesthood to prepare himself to be President of Kings.

Mary Wychock, on leave from the Residence Life Office, was busy working for the family distributorship-delivering kegs to the newest "free delivery" pizza and beer emporium "Dan McNulty's Hideaway".

And of course Betty Kwak couldn't be there-she was still working the night shift. And Mary Supey?? Well, she couldn't be

there because she was chairing the 2,897th meeting of the Alcohol Disciplinary Board.

But the shocker- the real shocker is Amy Wiedlimer. And Amy- well, she planned to attend but she ran off, instead, with none other than Mark Dudek- now we know what they were doing in the closet!!

For those there, however, the "Dean's do" was a huckleberry above a persimmon and passed, indeed, the "Four Way Test."

p.s. Rabbi Kestenbaum who gave the Benediction said, "Fear the Lord and keep your bowels open." His remarks, expanding on this theme, lasted six days, and on the seventh day, all rested.

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Dean of Men fifteen years

Member and Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre
(Chairman Council of Churches Stewardship Drive)

Member of the Wilkes-Barre Rotary Club since 1943; President of the Club in 1958

Director, Wilkes-Barre Y. M. C. A.

~~Director, Wyoming Valley American Red Cross~~

Chairman, Wilkes-Barre Recreation Board

Board Member, Salvation Army

Board Member, Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

Married, three sons

April 10, 1963