

Ground-Breaking Ceremony Schedule & Booklets,
June 4 1956

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Ground-Breaking Ceremony

HAROLD R. STARK HALL

WILKES COLLEGE

JUNE 4, 1956



The Star Spangled Banner

InvocationThe Reverend Edgar F. Singer

Three Short Classics for Brass Quintet

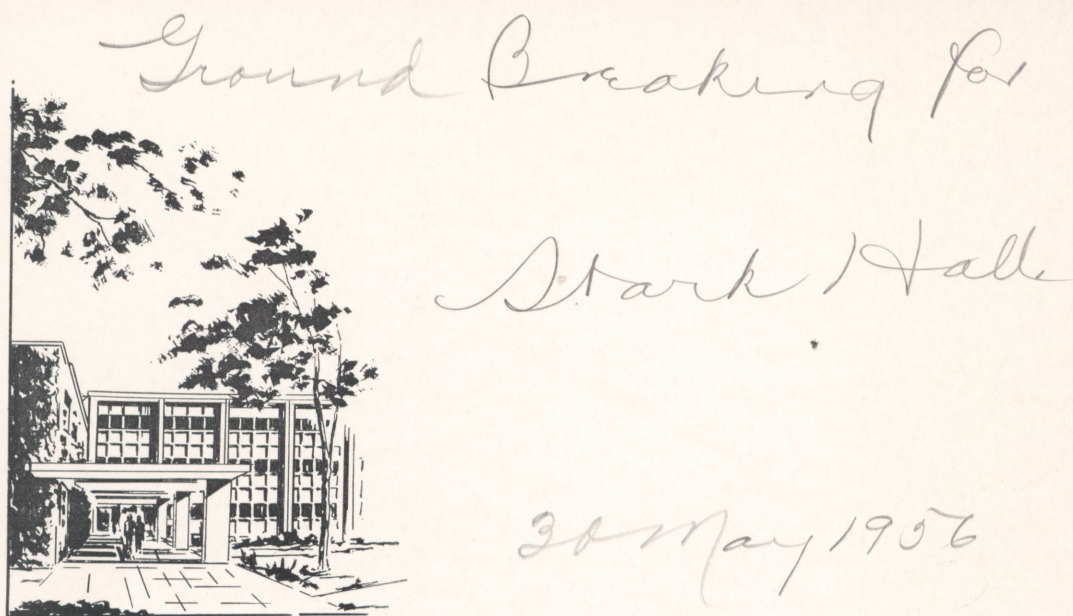
WILKES COLLEGE BRASS QUINTET

AddressArnaud C. Marts
Vice-Chairman, Wilkes College Board of Trustees

Ground Breaking.....Gilbert S. McClintock
Chairman, Wilkes College Board of Trustees

March for Brass Quintet.....*J. S. Bach*
WILKES COLLEGE BRASS QUINTET

BenedictionThe Reverend Burke Rivers



Ground Breaking for

Stark Hall

30 May 1956

*Quarter-century milestone
...in the making*

WILKES COLLEGE

WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Ground-breaking ceremony Harold R. Stark Hall

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WILKES COLLEGE
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Ground-breaking ceremony Harold R. Stark Hall

Introduction of Arnaud Marts and Harold Stark

Eugene S. Farley

Today's ceremony brings together two friends who have not lived in our community, at least for many years, but who have from the very beginning of Wilkes College had its interest at heart.

Arnaud Marts, who will be our next speaker, was a member of the Board of Trustees at Bucknell University when the junior college was established. He was president during the early years of our struggle, and he was president when Admiral Stark gave us the first substantial boost by his gift of Chase Hall.

As we break the ground for this building to be named for Admiral Stark, I find myself wondering what our future would have been had he not given his own home early in the history of our college. I think that without that early impetus many of the forward steps that have since been taken might not have been possible, so I want to express at this time a bit of my own gratitude to the Admiral.

At the same time, I want to introduce Arnaud Marts, the vice-chairman of our Board of Trustees, who as president of Bucknell University gave tremendous impetus to the College during those days of doubt and uncertainty.



Left to right: Rev. Burke Rivers (partially obscured); Gilbert S. McClintock, chairman of the board of trustees; Adm. Harold R. Stark, college trustee; Dr. Eugene S. Farley, college president; Dr. Arnaud C. Marts (at lectern), vice-chairman of the board of trustees; Reuben H. Levy, college trustee; and Rev. Edgar F. Singer.

Address

DR. ARNAUD C. MARTS
*Vice-Chairman of the Board
of Trustees of Wilkes College*

Mr. President, Admiral Stark, ladies and gentlemen:

I will speak very briefly this afternoon. First, I want to make reference to the significance of this occasion. Then, I want to speak also briefly about the man whose name will be borne by this building soon to be erected where we are now sitting. As Dr. Farley has said, it was just twenty-three years ago, in the depths of the worst depression that our generation has ever experienced—and worse, I hope, than any other generation will experience in American life—that my predecessor at Bucknell, President Homer Rainey, was told by some friends here in the Wyoming Valley about the hundreds of boys and girls who were then graduating from the high schools of the Valley and who, because of the unemployment of their parents and the general economic depression throughout the nation, were not able to go on to continue their education. There were not sufficient facilities here in the Valley, and they did not have money enough to go out of the Valley to go to college for four more years of education.



I pay tribute to my predecessor, Dr. Rainey, in having the faith and courage, and sometimes I tell him the lack of intelligence, ever to think he could start a college under circumstances like that. But he did, and professors from Bucknell, as many of you know, traveled up here between teaching hours at Bucknell to teach the classes of the boys and girls who immediately enrolled here. They first met in rented quarters and then, much to my surprise and to the surprise of many Bucknell trustees who voted approval of the Junior College when President Rainey asked it—but with their fingers crossed—the new college became a going concern.

In spite of doubts that it was possible to start a college in those depression years, Dr. Rainey announced in the summer of 1933 that the college would open classes the following September if any would care to come. And did they come! I think it was 165, wasn't it Gene, who became freshmen that first September. And as many more the following September. And soon, when the responsibilities of directing the affairs of Bucknell University were shifted to my shoulders, I discovered that we had started something that we either had to finish properly, or else bring bitter disappointment to hundreds of ambitious and fine boys and girls of this Valley.

To meet this unexpected responsibility, a committee was formed of leading citizens—several of whom I see here today—who acted energetically. They bravely made known that we would need permanent quarters for this College which soon gave every indication of becoming a permanent institution. Following this action, we got word from Mr. Robinson that Mrs. John Conyngham had offered her home to the College for educational purposes; and almost the same day, Mr. Mulligan informed us that Admiral Stark had offered his home, which he had received from his sister, Mrs. Chase. So the little college was in business, and ever since it has been growing in equipment and strength, so that it has now become, as you all know, a four-year, fully accredited college whose graduates can enter any university, I believe, to which they aspire with full credits.

Now, I have tried two or three times in recent years to tell Admiral Stark how much that early gift of his, of Chase Hall, meant to this college and to the young people of this great Valley. But whenever I try to tell him these things, he gets bored and starts to talk on some other subject, and I find it very difficult to finish a sentence in which I want to compliment him on what he did here. As Dr. Farley has said, if he and Mrs. Conyngham had not given their beautiful homes at that time, I sometimes wonder if the trustees and the rest of us would have had the courage and the faith to go forward with the building up of this great little college.

This is a significant day in the life of Wilkes College. The little group of men who have had the great generosity to send \$900,000 to Wilkes College in order that this Science Building may be built are men who deserve, and I

am sure will receive, the quiet, though unspoken, thanks and gratitude of each person here, and of all the other men and women and young men and women of this Valley who care about a better world and who are willing to give the leadership and the work and the money to help create it.

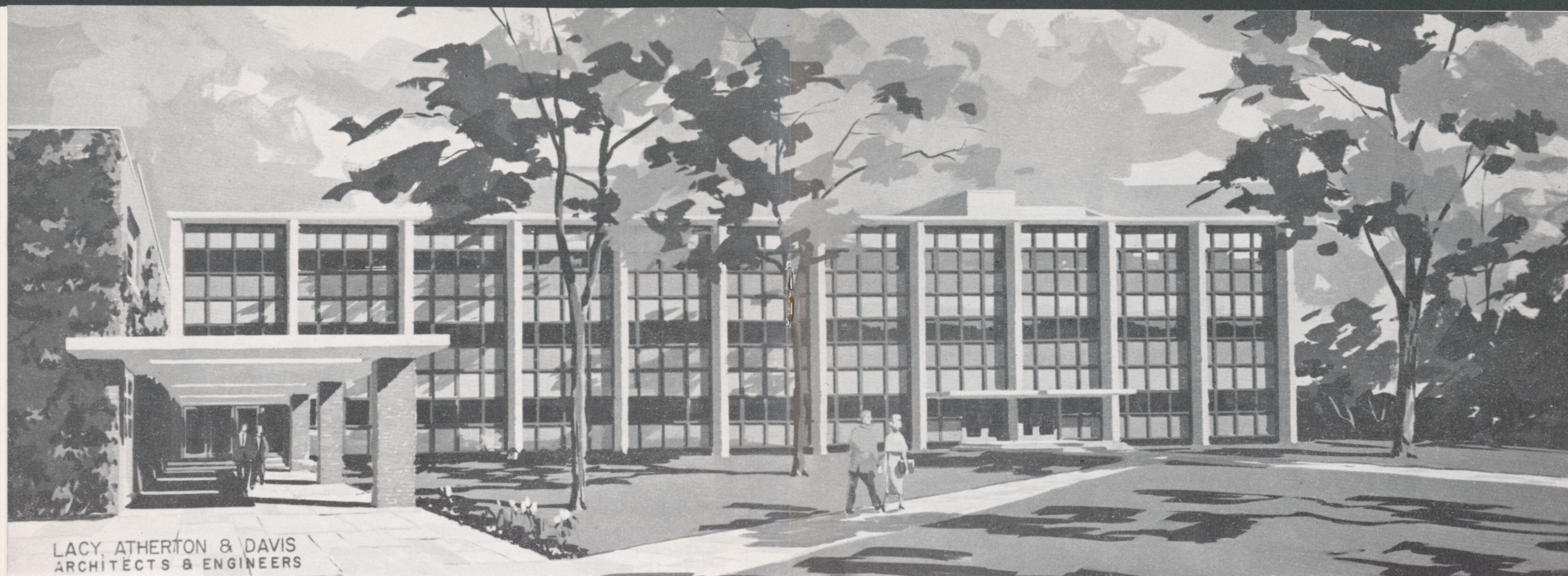
You know that teaching young people, helping them to grow, is very similar to helping any living thing to grow. If you pick a fruit or vegetable before it has had a chance to get its full growth, that's the end of it. If you take a boy or girl at the end of high school who is qualified and ambitious for college and deny him that college education for one reason or another, then you have limited the growth of that boy or that girl and have denied our generation and our world the greater service that might have been available had his full potentialities been cultivated. The establishment of this College has meant that 7,000 boys and girls in the past twenty-three years have not had their growth arbitrarily ended at the end of high school; for had this institution not been here, many of them would have had their educations ended.

And now, with the beginning of this new building, Wilkes College comes into a stronger position, able to give a much finer and better education to the thousands of young men and young women who come here to get four years more of growth, training, and of inspiration.

The gift for the erection of Stark Hall is the largest sum of money ever given this college, and it provides the largest and most extensive educational equipment that our College has yet received. It will add immeasurably to the strength and well being of both the College and of this Wyoming Valley.

And now, I want to say just a word about the significance of this new building in the life of the Wyoming Valley. This Valley has been one of the great areas of our nation. It has for the past century had its life and economy centered around a single industry, that industry having to do with the extracting from the depths of the earth of these hills about us those treasures that were placed there, how many thousands or millions of years before this day I know not. But there they were, a static treasure to be dug out, dug out by these tools—the pick and shovel—that are symbolic, are they not, of the Wyoming Valley?

Today these symbolic tools are to be used to provide another type of treasure house to the Wyoming Valley. For out of this building, the Harold R. Stark Science Hall, I venture to prophesy will come greater treasures and greater wealth than has ever yet been dug from the bowels of the earth of Wyoming Valley. For the years ahead, the wealth of America and the well-being of America will be dug, I believe, not out of MINES—if I may use a play on words—but out of MINDS. It is the minds of the coming generations that will create the wealth and the well-being and the prosperity of the future, not only of the Wyoming Valley but of our whole land and of our whole world. We are entering into a generation in which the brains of men and



Architects' Conception of the Harold R. Stark Science Hall

women are going to create the economy of America and are also going to solve many of the social problems that have harassed and bothered generations past. These problems are not insurmountable when men and women of good will and character and determination decide to establish and maintain a world of decency, fairness, and brotherhood, and will apply their brains to the attainment of these objectives.

May I tell you a little story of my college out in Ohio where I went to school? I had a professor of chemistry there. I wasn't a very good chemistry student. I passed the course, but I wasn't very smart in it. But a few years before me there was a smart boy in that chemistry class taught by that same teacher. And one day the teacher took a little crystal of aluminum in his hands and held it before the boys and girls in that class and said: "This is aluminum. This is a very light but strong metal. It will do things that steel

will do and it only weighs a fraction of what steel weighs. And, if any of you boys here, or any boy anywhere, can find a way to produce that metal commercially, he will render a great service to his generation and, incidentally, he'll make some money for himself."

One boy in that chemistry class went up to the professor afterwards and said: "I would like to go for that. How would you do it?" And the teacher said: "Well, it costs \$20 to produce an ounce of aluminum by the long application of heat to a solution of chemical and bauxite. But if someone could apply an electric current to that and precipitate those crystals quickly, I believe it might do the job." And so this boy went to work, and that summer in his woodshed he learned how to extract aluminum from bauxite, and today the world is dependent on aluminum. Aluminum is one of the great products of our generation, and that boy was encouraged to produce aluminum in a little

chemical laboratory of a little—what they used to call—“cow college” out in Ohio. Incidentally, he did make some money and when he died, he left \$30,000,000 to that little college.

So, I hope some boys in this new building will make great discoveries like that; and I am sure they will. Maybe they will then leave \$30,000,000 to Wilkes College later on. I am sure they will do their part.

And now in closing, I would like to say a word of tribute to Admiral Stark. When the little group of men made this generous gift to Wilkes College for the construction of this science building, they said they did not wish to have their own names made known. And then, when asked how the College might name this building, they made a very, very happy suggestion. They asked if it might be named for Admiral Harold Stark. What a suggestion that was! And how eagerly it was accepted and agreed upon by the Board of Trustees.

Now, twenty years after Admiral Stark helped to put the College in business with the gift of Chase Hall, we break ground for a science building that will bear his name. We do this with gratitude in our hearts to those men who gave this money, and with joy in our hearts and minds that this significant building is going to be called for this noble man who has meant so much to this College from the very first of its life.

Some fifteen years ago, I had the honor, in behalf of the trustees and faculty of Bucknell University, to confer a degree, an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, on Admiral Stark and I want to read just ten or twelve words from the citation I used that day.

“Beloved leader of young men on land and sea.”

Those of you who know him, know how he is beloved by people because he has loved people and served people.

“Beloved leader of young men on land and sea, gentleman of noble character.”

It is to such a man that we turn today, happy that this building will bear his name.



On platform, left to right: Rev. Burke Rivers; Gilbert S. McClintock, chairman of the board of trustees; Adm. Harold R. Stark (at lectern), college trustee; Dr. Eugene S. Farley, college president; Dr. Arnaud C. Marts, vice-chairman of the board of trustees; and Reuben H. Levy, college trustee.

Acknowledgment by Admiral Stark

I feel more like dropping through the deck than anything else after that lovely tribute. Such remarks don't leave a fellow in much of a position to talk.

I could not have expressed my own feelings of gratitude any better or even so well as Dr. Marts. He has expressed my own gratitude to the people who have made this building possible. It gives me real pleasure to contemplate the benefits their gift will bring to future generations in this Valley.

I won't take any more of your time. It is a joy to be back here in the old home town. My heart has always been here, even though physically I spent about fifty years away from it except for blessed intervals when I could come back.

Nice to have you all here.



Participating in the ceremony as the first shovelful of earth was turned were, left to right: Reuben H. Levy, college trustee; Andrew J. Sordoni, Jr., building contractor; Dr. Eugene S. Farley, college president; Adm. Harold R. Stark, college trustee, after whom the building was named; and Gilbert S. McClintock, chairman of the college board of trustees.

Telegrams with Prefatory Remarks

Eugene S. Farley

Four war-time friends of Admiral Stark's have sent messages to him through me. I suspect that he will be embarrassed by the wonderful compliments they pay him, but I know that he will also be pleased.

TELEGRAM

Annapolis, Md
1956 Jun 3 pm 7 30

Dr. Eugene S. Farley
President, Wilkes College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Nothing in my opinion could be more fitting than a science building to be named for Admiral Harold R. Stark, United States Navy "Retired". I have served with him at sea and in the most important navy assignments ashore when he was Chief of Naval Operations, the Head of the Navy. Few Americans are fully aware of Admiral Stark's personal contribution prior to World War Two in his untiring efforts to improve the fighting capability of the United States Navy. And, unfortunately, Admiral Stark's great contributions to United States - British co-operation when he was the Commander of United States Naval Forces, Europe, during the early years of United States participation in World War Two, are better known in Great Britain than in the United States. As the United States Navy advances into the nuclear age, and a new vista of sea power such as the world has never known becomes apparent, I consider it most appropriate that a building named in honor of Admiral Stark should be a hall of science wherein young students may discover newer and better ways to help America guard the peace and benefit mankind. My heartiest congratulations to Admiral Stark on the occasion.

Rear Admiral William R. Smedberg
Superintendent
United States Naval Academy

TELEGRAM

Philadelphia, Penn
1956 May 30 pm 2 20

Dr. Eugene S. Farley, President
Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Penn
For Admiral Harold R. Stark:

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of the ground-breaking for the science building which is to bear your name. It is most appropriate that the contribution you, as Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Chief of Naval Operations, made to the nation's technical and scientific development should be so recognized. May the students and faculty of present and future generations who enter this science building realize that it is through the unselfish sacrifices of great Americans like yourself that they pursue their studies.

C. Charles Wellborn, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander, U. S. Second Fleet

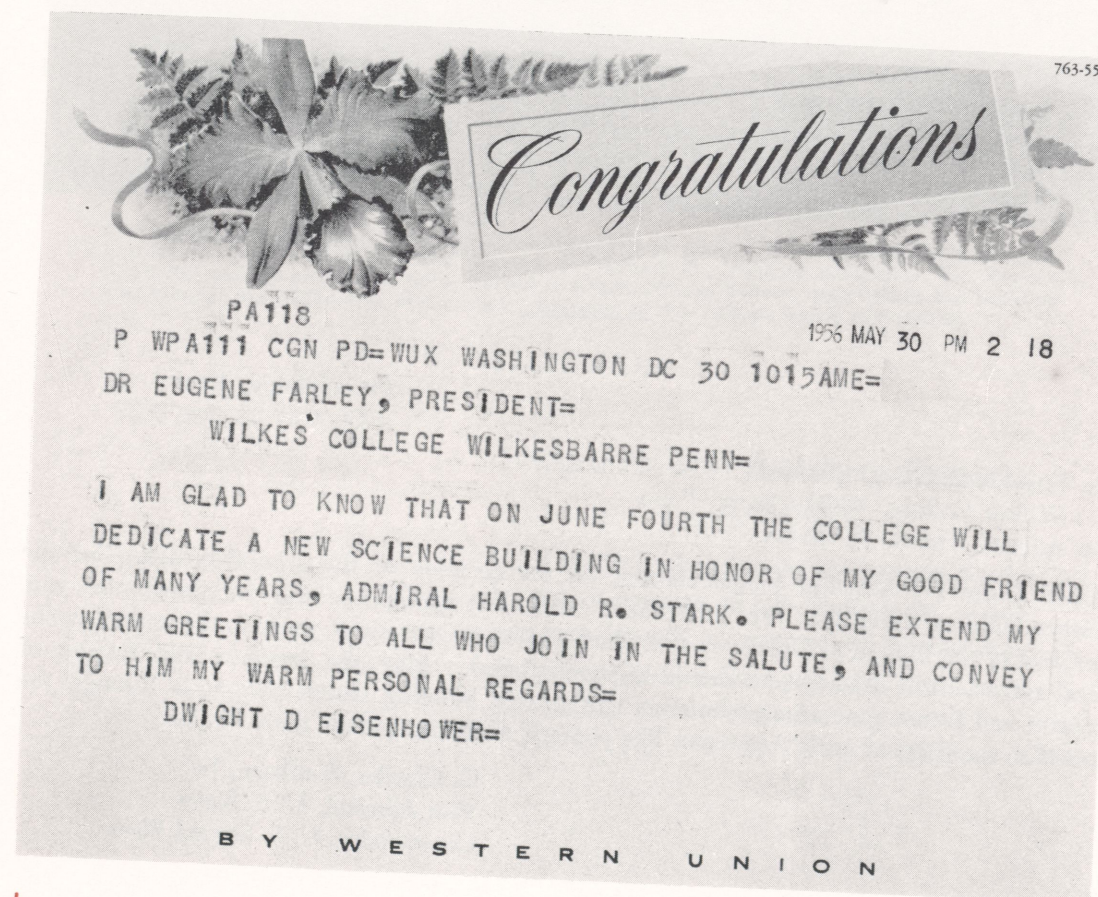
TELEGRAM

Dr. Eugene S. Farley, President
Wilkes College
Wilkes-Barre, Penn

Pittsburgh, Penn
1956 May 29 pm 1 20

Will you please convey the following message to Admiral Harold R. Stark:
I send my sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of breaking ground for a science building to be named for you. This is a worthy tribute to a distinguished naval officer who devoted his life to the service of his country and whose example of devotion to duty and effective discharge of his responsibilities will stand as a beacon for the generations of naval officers who will follow. My very best wishes for a long and happy life.

BEN MOREELL, Admiral CEC-USN Retired





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