

# HISTORY

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twenty-four students were registered. In the face of these difficulties, the Hazleton Educational Council made it possible for the Center to continue its collegiate work and to serve as a hub of war-training activities.

In the post-war years, the Hazleton Center witnessed a need for education which was until that date unknown to the Center. The end of the war and the return of the veterans to the classroom eased the problem of low enrollment, but, at the same time, the Center was faced with this equally perplexing problem: where to put the hundreds of students who were clamoring for admission.

By mid-semester of 1946 the G.I. influx began, and the problem grew worse. To accommodate the new students, rooms of the A.D. Thomas Elementary School, in the northwestern section of Hazleton, were used to augment facilities of the West Broad Street School. However, the G.I. enrollment kept growing, and more rooms were again needed. At this time, rooms in the Walnut Street School, on the opposite end of Hazleton from the West Broad Street School, were used to assist in the accommodation of the 475 students, of whom 300 were GI's.

By the end of 1947 the facilities of the Hazleton Center of the Pennsylvania State University were spread over the entire city of Hazleton. Facilities were becoming antiquated and inadequate. New, large, modern buildings were needed to go along with this huge post-war enrollment. The classrooms had to be brought together and placed in a permanent home. Several sites were to be inspected before a final choice was made as to which site would become the new home of the Center. Among the sites considered were Hazle Park, a plot of land in West Hazleton previously used as an amusement park; an estate at the corner of Vine and Diamond



Groundbreaking for the Library

Avenue in Hazleton; and the Markle Estate, which was on the picturesque crest of the Conyngham Pass, three miles west of Hazleton.

On December 16, 1948, Eckley B. Markle offered his sixty-six acre mountain estate to the Education Council for purchase. The Markle Estate was purchased, and the Hazleton Undergraduate Center was finally located at its present site overlooking the Conyngham Valley.

The main building of the Markle Estate, which now houses the administrative offices, classrooms, instructor's offices, the infirmary, and the physical education office, was built in the 1920's. The architect was Mr. Eggar, founder of the New York firm of Eggar and Higgins.

The campus has now grown to a size that was probably never even imagined in the wildest dreams of those far-sighted who first felt the need for a campus in Hazleton. The Memorial Building, which now houses classrooms and faculty offices, was once the Markle garage and the apartments of the estate staff. The South Building, which was once the estate greenhouse, now contains a large classroom, which is also used for the Chorus rehearsals. It was also once used as the R.O.T.C. headquarters on campus, as one can readily tell by a look at the huge map on Mr. Jumpeter's office wall. The present custodial residence was once the butler's quarters. The Student

Union Building, which was built in 1958, at a cost of \$200,000, contains a cafeteria, a student conference room, a student lounge, a game room, the Student Government Association office, and the Publications Office, which publishes the Highacres COLLEGIAN, the New Horizons Literary Magazine, and the "Can I Help Ya?" newsletter.

The new buildings include a Library with an extensive collection of books and other informational sources for students and faculty members; a Book Store; a Classroom Building, which houses most of the classrooms, the Chemistry and Physics and Biology Labs, the Computer Terminal, a huge lecture hall, and a number of faculty offices; a large and modern dormitory, and an elegant dining hall. And, within a few years, a new physical education building will be added to the excellence of the Hazleton Campus of the Pennsylvania State University.

In 1958, by action of the Board of Trustees, the Hazleton Center was designated as the Hazleton Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. The present student enrollment now numbers over 800 students. The administration of the campus is now headed by Dr. William David, who replaced Frank Costos as director of the campus in 1973.

History until 1964 taken from "Our Thirty Years" printed by the Belles-Lettres Society and the Student Government Association in 1964.