

PSU releases area's business survey

Economic conditions in this area remain in line with what they were during much of 1978, despite a slowing in the third quarter.

The slowing was not unexpected because this area is especially sensitive to changes in the national economy. That has slowed to a certain extent, too, although the third quarter produced more strength than most observers anticipated. In this area, what has been lost is the spurt of activity that took place here during the first quarter of 1979.

On average, about 259,500 residents of the three-county area were employed monthly during the third quarter. That is about 2,800 more than were employed in the second quarter; but the increase fell about 200 short of matching seasonal expectations.

Roughly 54 percent of employment is found in Luzerne County, 37 percent in Lackawanna County, and 9 percent in Monroe County.

Neither of the two major counties varied much from the area pattern, although they don't have an identical industry mix. Lackawanna is a little more dependent on manufacturing industries for jobs than is Luzerne but the importance of various industries as suppliers of jobs differs between the counties. The making of apparel, electrical equipment and printing counts

for more in Lackawanna, while in Luzerne food, textiles, and non-electrical machinery are more important. Both are about equally dependent on the manufacture of fabricated metals.

It is in these manufacturing industries that much of the current job weakness lies. There were about 1,800 fewer manufacturing jobs, on the average, during the third quarter than during the second, and about 3,200 fewer than in the third quarter of 1978.

The nonmanufacturing industries did not actually lose jobs during the third quarter; but the fact that they did not gain was a disappointment because they usually do. Also, they supplied about 1,700 fewer jobs, on average, than they had a year earlier. This, however, amounts to no more than one percent of the more than 171,000 nonmanufacturing jobs at that time.

Industrial output, as measured by factory hours worked and electricity used by factories, is very close to last year's level. The use of checking accounts suggests that overall business conditions are about the same as they were then at the close of

summer. That was not outstanding, but it wasn't deep in the doldrums either.

By the end of the third quarter in September, some marks had been reached that were rather lower than the quarterly average. But there were signs that conditions were perhaps not going much lower. Fewer people were laid off than is customary, and so the employment index rose. Local manufacturing industries held steady in their job count. The factory workweek, on average, remained longer than one would expect. Unemployment dropped.

But the manufacturing job situation was bad. In Scranton, more-than-seasonal job layoffs appear to have stopped in July, but in the Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton area they were continuing and had, in fact, reached a record low point.

It seems hardly likely that with national conditions as uncertain as they are this area can get away without further damage. Perhaps future deterioration may be more gradual than that of the recent past.

Student's rights reviewed

A Pennsylvania student lobby organization has obtained a two-year federal grant to study student grievance procedures and information dissemination practices currently used by three state colleges.

Robin Winston, executive director of The Commonwealth Association of Students, says there's a growing concern and a need for a handbook that lists all the consumer obligations of an institution to its students. The final product of the two-year study will be such a handbook, that details student's rights and respon-

sibilities as well as information on financial aid, tuition cost, academic grievance procedures and student publications.

The \$77,000 grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education will enable research on three campuses, Bloomsburg, West Chester, and Slippery Rock State Colleges. It is reportedly the first successful attempt of its kind by a statewide student association to ensure student consumers of receiving adequate, correct information about the "education product" they are consuming.

HAVE tapes Condors

Perhaps you have wondered who has been responsible for the taping of home basketball games this season. H.A.V.E., the Highacres Audio Visual Engineers Club is operated primarily by the students to assist the basketball team in post-game analysis, and also for the enjoyment of player's family members who are unable to

attend a home game.

H.A.V.E. would like to invite new students into the club who have an interest in working with audio visual equipment. Those wishing to participate in the club should come up to the second floor in the Physical Education Building during home basketball games.

SUB Activities

The Halloween Dance which SUB co-sponsored with RHC was a fun filled night for all who attended. There were many interesting costumes and six lucky winners. There were 275 people who enjoyed the music and dancing.

On November 2, SUB held the annual Las Vegas Night. About 100 people came to gamble. As the evening progressed the cow-girls had a race and door prizes

were given out.

On December 16, SUB is planning their annual Children's Christmas Party. Children in the Hazleton area come up for an afternoon of fun. They receive gifts from Santa after lunch. Anyone interested in helping with this or any other activities during the year can contact a SUB officer or come to our meetings Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Commons.

Highacres Collegian Welcomes Letters to the Editors

Personal Ads

We love you Muffin (J.C.)—S.N., P.H.

Trailer for sale. Contact Joe in Room 215.

Hi, Mom! Do you know where your children are?—your two darling daughters.

Nelda, can I come to your contest next time?—E.E.
J.R. what other voice wakes you up?—S.N., P.H.

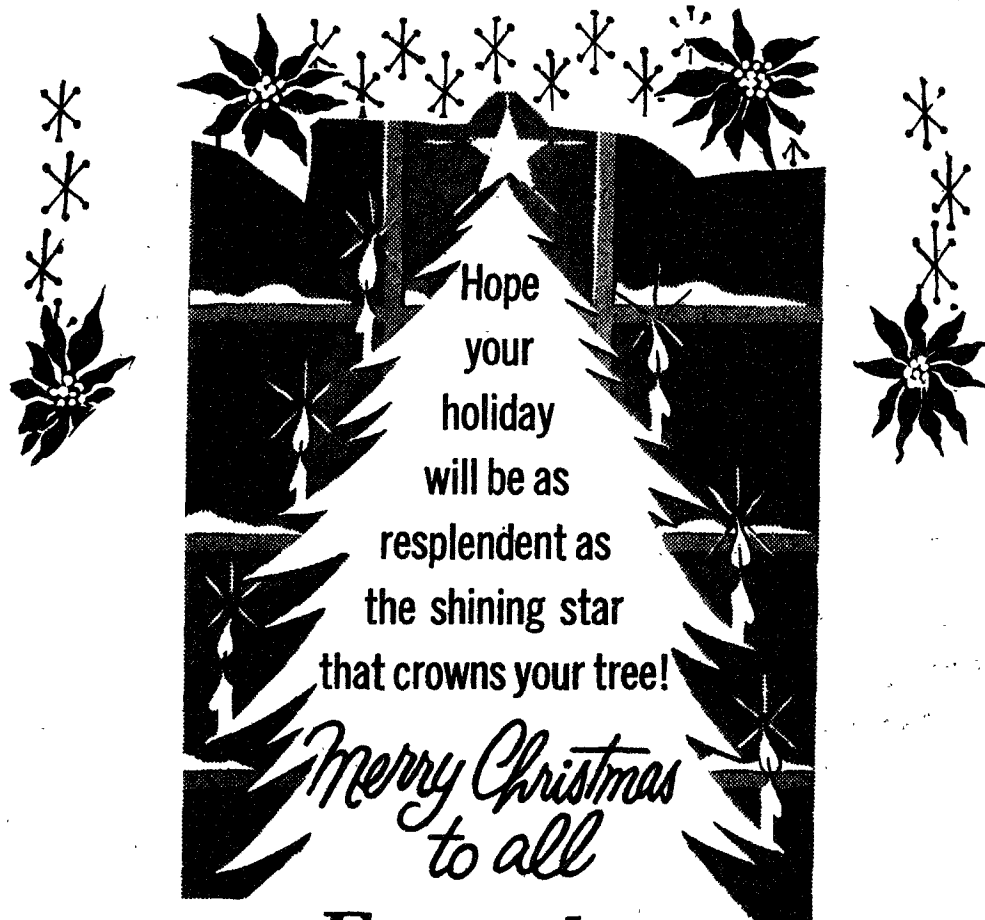
Good luck R.H.C.—we know you'll need it against us.—S.U.B.

WANTED—More classified ads. Place ad in the Collegian office or in Box 13J.

G.W. we miss you on our floor—S.N., P.H., J.K.

Thanks for picking me up off the floor, John.—S.

Could someone please tell me what ever happened to the Radio Club?—M.C.K.



From the
Highacres Collegian

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