

I MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN

By JOSEPH WERSINGER

Some of us are young, and some of us are older; but we shall no doubt agree that no matter how long we have lived in a community, there are many facts we do not know about it.

Hazleton owes its beginning to the construction of a turnpike which now connects the two principal rivers of the region in which it stands, the Lehigh and the Susquehanna. The chief occupation of the original settlers was lumbering; but when coal was discovered in the Beaver Meadows section in 1813, almost every worker wore boots and a dirty face. Many men were attracted to the small settlement by the report of a new and highly promising industry. In 1856 the various sections of Hazel Brook were incorporated into a borough. Rapid growth followed until, in 1913 the town, now called Hazleton became a third class city.

The production of coal is the largest industry of the "Mountain City"; but of course we should never have thought that 68 thousand people here earn one hundred and nineteen million dollars on pay day in a one hundred and seventy-eight million dollar industry. Then, too, although we do not realize the fact, sixty-six hundred other workers earn seven and three-quarter million dollars in a fourteen million dollar combination of enterprises other than coal mining. We may not believe that nineteen trains arrive in Hazleton each day with one thousand tons of freight to run its industries, but it is true. It amazes us to think that this city's people read 54,500 newspapers daily, use forty million gallons of water a week, have thirty-nine million dollars in its banks, watch movies from nine thousand theater seats, read thirty-eight thousand library volumes, and send nine and a half thousand children to schools, which employ three hundred teachers. Another incredible fact is that although this city is less than six square miles in area, it has sixty-three miles of gas mains and fifty-three miles of sewers.

Most unbelievable is this: nearly two million persons within a 50-mile radius of Hazleton depend upon its large and many industries for their livelihood.

Those are the facts and figures, unbelievable perhaps, but true.

NOT OVERLOOKED

"I just heard that the students have a nickname for Prof. Smith, and I think that is very nice," said Prof. Jones. "It shows a real intimacy and comradeship. I sometimes wish they would give me a nickname."

"The students have a nickname for you," said his son. "It's Sanka."

That night about midnight, after thinking the matter over many times, the father got up, went down to the kitchen and hunted until he found a can of Sanka. Then he read on the label: "More than 98% of the active portion of the bean has been removed."

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The Origin Of Hazleton Undergraduate Center



Front row, left to right: Mr. J. Stewart, administrative assistant; Mr. D. P. Pugh, director of Undergraduate Centers; Mr. A. A. Goss, administrative head, H. U. C.

Second row: H. M. Zerbe, treasurer Student Union; Mr. F. C. Kostos, assistant Administrative Head, Broad Street Building; Mr. J. R. Mattern, assistant Administrative Head, H. U. C.

In the year of 1932, a group of Hazleton citizens requested the Pennsylvania State College to establish an undergraduate center in the city of Hazleton. State College assented after a survey was made of various aspects which could have become obstacles in the path of its success.

Hazleton Undergraduate Center was finally founded in the year of 1934 with Mr. Ercke as its administrative head. Its total enrollment was forty-seven students who were taught by a staff of seven. Classes were conducted in the Markle Bank Building. Chemistry, the only laboratory course, was taught at Hazleton High School after the high school's noon session terminated.

The enrollment grew steadily and larger quarters were necessary. For

this reason the school was moved to the Broad Street Building in September of 1937. Mr. Herpel replaced Mr. Ercke as administrative head as the spring semester of 1939 commenced.

Peak enrollment for the pre-war years was 137 students in the year of 1941. In 1942, Mr. Goss, our present administrative head, replaced Mr. Herpel.

During the war years the enrollment dropped considerably until it reached its lowest point during the 43-44 semester with only 27 students. The closing months of the war found the enrollment increasing rapidly as discharged servicemen enrolled.

The present enrollment of 384 students is taught by a faculty of 27. Three hundred and three students are former servicemen. Forty of the

remaining number are girls.

To accommodate the student body classrooms were acquired in the Walnut Street School. The office and majority of the classrooms are at present in this building. The Broad Street building is used mainly for laboratory classes. A new chemical laboratory has been built there and the Center now possesses two. A large room for engineering drawing has also been furnished.

Three new departments have been added to the curriculum. They are music, speech and dramatics. A full time librarian has also been obtained.

Hazleton Undergraduate Center has progressed greatly during its short existence and we know, with the aid of the students and citizens of Hazleton, it will continue to do so in the years to come.

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